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talks of her love  
and betrayal  
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## Cashmere and biscuit exports hit Protest to US in banana trade war

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

BRITAIN'S relations with the United States were jolted last night as a dispute over banana imports to Europe flared into a trade war.

The American Ambassador to London was called to the Department of Trade and Industry to face a fierce protest over Washington's action in imposing swinging duties on £350 million worth of European goods, including the Scottish cashmere industry.

Philip Lader was told by Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, that the American action was irrational and unacceptable and he asked the US Government "in the spirit of friendship" to think again. There was no justification, he said, in inflicting damage on business and communities that were completely unrelated to the banana dispute. The Ambassador will face a similar rebuke at the Foreign Office today.

Mr Lader arrived at the DTI office in Whitehall last night in a Cadillac for the highly unusual "carpeting" of an American ambassador by a trade minister. The Government reacted to the American move by offering cash guarantees to help cashmere exporters to meet the new demands of US Customs.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade Secretary, said that it was a "diplomatic calamity of the highest order" that the Government had got into a trade war with the US and had failed to find a European Union banana regime that abided by international law.

It is the worst rift since the Americans granted Gerry Adams a visa against the Conservative Government's wishes in 1994. In recent history there were rows over the Amer-

### Euro falls to lowest level

The euro fell to its lowest value against sterling and the dollar yesterday after Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, rejected a German plea to cut interest rates to stop euroland's biggest economy falling into recession.

In two months of trading, the new currency has fallen 8 per cent against the dollar and 5 per cent against the pound. Page 27

ican invasion of Grenada in 1983 and over US sanctions against European companies involved in building the Siberian oil pipeline to Europe.

America suddenly imposed the sanctions on Wednesday night over the refusal of Britain and other EU states to stop giving favourable treatment to bananas imported from the Caribbean and Africa.

British goods worth about £60 million, including cashmere and biscuits, and other items from Europe, including cheese, handbags, candles and bubble baths, are affected.

About 2,400 British jobs could be at risk. The long-threatened American action was a response to the EU's reluctance to accept an international ruling and give so-called "dollar" bananas, imported by US firms mainly from Latin America, equal market access with the fruit from former British and French islands.

The European Union argues that some protection is needed to support the livelihood of former colonies that depend on bananas for their economic survival.

Sir Leon Brittan, the Commissioner responsible for the EU's foreign trade, said that the American demand for firms to pay a 100 per cent "bond" on the imports was an irrational breach of international law that "risks a major trade confrontation".

Last November America announced its intention of retaliating against the EU by imposing 100 per cent duties on selected products. It sought World Trade Organisation (WTO) authority for the move, but when the WTO arbitrator said on Tuesday that he needed more information before making a decision, the American Government decided to go ahead anyway.

Although it argued that it would not apply the duties until after the arbitrator had ruled, the effect was the same because it asked exporters to put up bonds to cover possible duties in future.

Britain has been singled out for the heaviest retaliation apparently because of its backing for privileged banana trade with its former Caribbean territories, Denmark and The Netherlands face no sanctions because they do not back the EU stand.

In another dispute, Congress is moving closer to a ban on flights to the United States by the Anglo-French Concorde in retaliation for new EU noise controls that affect older American aircraft.

Banana republics, page 4  
Leading article, Letters, page 23



Prince and the showgirls: The Duke of Edinburgh meeting some of the chorus line of the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi theatre in the West End

## Drama fit for a royal performance

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen slumped dead on her throne, poisoned. At the cry of "Treason! Seek it out!" another Queen jumped started in her seat, as well as monarch might.

More or less everyone dies in the closing moments of *Hamlet*, which yesterday provided the opening scene of a day's tour of London theatreland by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen saw rather a lot of dying, while the Duke had much more fun with a line of chorus girls when he visited rehearsals for the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi.

Themed days out are an innovation by the Palace, begun last year when the Queen spent a day visiting financial institutions in the City. Yesterday's was a recognition of Lon-

don theatre's £225 million contribution to the balance of payments, and an opportunity for the thespian world to preen itself with pride.

Some one occurred at the Young Vic, which runs theatre workshops for local schoolchildren. Hamlet and Laertes rehearsed their final fatal duel for the Queen, who struggled to hear the Prince of Denmark's last words delivered in near-impenetrable Jamaican.

Scene two was infinitely more cheerful, as the Queen moved to the Lyceum to hear the cast of *Oklahoma* rehearsing the thigh-slapping *The Farmer and the Cowman Should be Friends*.

The monarch is not known as a regular theatregoer, but she does like *Oklahoma*, having seen the original London production in 1949. Princess Margaret liked it even more

and reportedly went to see it 27 times.

Last night the Royal couple went to see it again. It was the Queen's choice, and she had reportedly wavered between Rogers and Hammerstein and the current production of *Amadeus*.

The musical won, possibly on the strength of family recommendation; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother saw the production at the National Theatre as a birthday treat last year.

Backstage at the Lyceum during her morning visit, the Queen met the cast headed by Maureen Lipman, who plays Aunt Eller, and who confessed that she would relish speaking the line "She'll feel like a queen sittin' up in that carriage", a reference to the surrey with the fringe on top. Scene three was markedly

grimmer. The Queen moved on to the Almeida Theatre in Islington to see Klaus Maria Brandauer, an eminent Austrian actor, in final rehearsal as Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, set in 1980s East Berlin after Speer's release from prison.

Brandauer gave the Queen a magnificently Prussian bow and handshake, complete with click of the heels, and showed her the model of Speer's proposed Great Hall, which was to have been the

centrepiece of a new Berlin as capital of Hitler's Greater Germany. The Queen peered inside it, fascinated.

In the Almeida's rehearsal rooms the Queen met her ancestor and namesake, in the shape of the Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who has won an Oscar nomination for her film portrayal of Elizabeth I.

But Gloriana preferred to talk of her latest part, as Susan Traherne in David Hare's *Continued on page 2*

### Abduction charge

Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, the couple who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their two foster daughters, were yesterday charged with abduction in Cambridgeshire. Page 5

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## Cook to face censure on leaks

By Roland Watson  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK faces a severe censure from Parliament after he admitted yesterday to receiving two further leaks of select committee reports.

Tories accused the Foreign Secretary of complicity and called for his resignation after he had confessed to the embarrassing disclosure. It comes after last week's revelation that he had received two leaks in advance of the critical report on his department's handling of the arms-to-Africa affair.

Mr Cook was facing a drawn out inquiry into those particular episodes. However, last night's further admission threatened to mire the Foreign Secretary in a wider controversy of breaking parliamentary rules.

Shaun Woodward, Tory MP for Witney, accused Mr Cook of "a grave abuse of Parliament" and being party to "institutionalised leaking".

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, has asked the cross-party Committee on Standards and Privileges to rule on whether a minister who receives leaked documents and fails to return them is in breach of parliamentary rules.

## Handwritten notes tell tale of Uganda deaths

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN THE BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

HOLDING out death notes that had been placed on the chests of two victims of Monday's slaughter of tourists in southwest Uganda, an army colonel vowed that his men would hunt down and kill the Rwandan rebels responsible.

In the tourist camps, beneath the jungle canopy of the national park, lie fire-gutted vehicles and the roofless, burnt-out huts. Then the remnants of a last meal, eaten before anyone could have been aware of imminent danger. And finally, a trail of scattered papers: a Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture list; two Putney cinema tickets for *Shakespeare in Love*; a shopping list; and a handful of receipts.

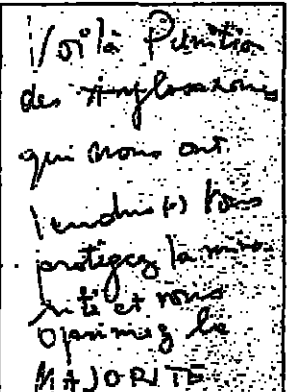
Lieutenant-Colonel Benon Biraro of the Ugandan Army, said his troops, working in conjunction with the Rwandan Army, were closing in on the insurgents, some 25 miles across the Congolese border.

"I am confident that we will hunt them down," he said. "It will not be a day; it will not be a week, but we will get them," he said. "We are looking for them and we will kill them."

He said that 15 of the rebels had been killed on Wednesday in an ambush by the Rwandan Army on the Goma-Kisora road and that the Rwan-

dans were setting further traps for them. He said he did not regard the rebels, members of the Interahamwe Hutu militia who were held responsible for the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, as adversaries but simply as terrorists and criminals who deserved no mercy.

He produced two notes, written in French on the backs of photographs of a gorilla and a kingfisher, which he said had been left on the chests of two men bludgeoned to death after being abducted with 12 other



The killers' message: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and you are oppressing the majority."

Western tourists and forced-marched into Congo. Six other tourists, including four women, were also hacked to death. Four of them were Britons.

The notes confirmed earlier reports that English speakers had been singled out for execution. One note read: "This is the fate of the Anglo-Saxons who betrayed us to the Nilotics against the Bantu cultivators."

The terms Nilotics and Bantu cultivators are used in Rwanda to describe Tutsis and Hutus respectively.

The other note said: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and you are oppressing the majority."

The standard of the handwriting, with only very minor spelling mistakes, shows a level of schooling not at all unusual among the Hutus. The Hutu leadership is extremely well educated.

At Buhoma camp, Congo Tutsis, the manager, described what he had seen of the attack. "It went on for about 20 minutes. I ran to the camp to find out what was happening, but the people had already been taken and the fires were burning."

Yard joins FBI, pages 16/17  
Simon Jenkins, page 22



### Lewinsky's tour of Britain

Monica Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around Britain in 18 days to sign copies of Andrew Morton's book about her. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; the Lakeside centre in Essex; and the new Bluewater complex in Kent. Page 3

### Posh Spice awaits baby

Posh Spice, Victoria Adams went into labour yesterday afternoon just 12 days after her fellow Spice Girl, Scary, had her daughter. Ms Adams, 24, was taken to the Portland Hospital in London with David Beckham, her fiancé and the Manchester United footballer. The parents are planning an August wedding.

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# Yes, we have no mention of the 'b' word by the minister

I have summoned the US Ambassador, Stephen Byers, to the Foreign Office. He should be here by now. For Mr Byers had come to tell us about bananas.

Banana is not a word that falls easily from the lips of such a dignified man. Carrying with him the air of a well-regarded local government accountant, Mr Byers displays the sort of purple-lipped gravity to which any mention of bananas would be a kind of affront. But Byers is the Secre-

tary of State for Trade and Industry, and Britain, with our European partners, is at daggers drawn with the United States, about ... well, you know what.

Yesterday Mr Byers had to make a Commons statement. The Americans are banning our knitwear because Europe won't take their ... you know what. Trade war looms. There was no way round mentioning the cause of it.

Quite possibly Mr Byers had never said "banana" in

his life. Banana splits are not the kind of pudding this quiet, neat, trim-suited man would order. If he had a pudding at all, it would be a small lemon sorbet. Simply to say the "b" word would get his specs steamed up.

But he said it. Once. Opting to get it over with fast, Byers had placed the word in the first sentence of his four-page statement. To remove any hint of gaiety that the word might have lent the passage, he coupled the banana with



two acronyms and the word "regime": "... dispute with the WTO over the EU's banana regime ...". And he had chosen a grey tie for the occasion — a different one from last Thursday. Byers keeps a whole rack of ties, all grey. He never said "banana" again in the singular. This

was quite a feat of draughtsmanship. We had "an amended regime", "the US action" and "this decision". But on the penultimate page of his statement Byers locked himself into an argument that could be expressed in no other way. "It is particularly unfortunate," he said,

"that American action is directed against industries that have absolutely no connection with ...".

There was no way of getting round the fruit. He hit the bullet. "Bananas," he said. Not since John Selwyn Gummer had to say "porpoises" nine times during a single statement has pride been so punctured. Next week Mr Byers's civil servants plan to make him say "bottoms". The context is still being contrived. Words matter. One word

yesterday, wrongly reported, is in danger of entering books of political quotations in its mistaken form. Mocking what he saw as the anti-European zealotry of the present Official Opposition, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, called the Tories "the rump of a set of a faction of a once-national party". A good line. I heard it, and have no doubt that those journalistic colleagues who reported "the rump of a set ..." etc. misheard. But that was the version going the rounds

as reporters filed their copy. In fact it works as well as the original.

Even better would be to add the misheard to the heard: "the rump of the runt of a set of a faction ..." etc. So shall we just settle on that?

□ The Times's "When Did You Stop Beating Your Wife?" parliamentary award: to Tory spokesman Nick Gibb. He asked the Chief Secretary which Labour most regretted making a false promise breaking it or being found out?

## Water firms fear pollution by GM crops

WATER companies are demanding a moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops amid fears that chemicals used on them may pollute rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

The water industry fears that widespread planting of herbicide-tolerant crops, such as oil seed rape and sugar beet, might lead to problems in meeting the strict legal limits on the levels of individual weed and pest-killing chemicals in drinking water. The companies are concerned that they may face multimillion-pound bills to put in herbicide removal technologies at water treatment works.

A spokesman for Water UK, the industry's body, said: "We have genuine concerns about the widespread use of crops which rely on just two chemicals, so we favour a go-slow, a moratorium. We need time to find the answers. We need several years." An industry team of environmental and scientific experts is to meet for the first time this month, to investigate the possible effect on drinking water. English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, has called for a three to five-year moratorium.

At present farmers use a wide range of different herbicides to control weeds. Peter Beaumont, of the Pesticides

**Nick Nuttall on concern that narrower range of farm chemicals may breach EU laws**

Trust in London, estimates that between 60 and 70 are used in British agriculture. But genetically engineered crops such as oil seed rape, maize and sugar beet, which are being readied for commercial planting, work in conjunction with just two. These are glyphosate, marketed by Monsanto under the brand name Round Up, and glufosinate, marketed under the trade name of Liberty by AgrEvo.

The European Drinking Water Directive sets the limit for individual pesticides or herbicides in drinking water at 0.1 microgrammes per litre, or less than one part per billion. Total pesticide and herbicide levels must not be above 0.5 microgrammes per litre.

The latest report by the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate says that in 1997, three million tests were carried out on tap water and that

99.75 per cent met the standards even in the big agricultural heartlands of East Anglia and Lincolnshire.

Water companies have invested £1 billion in treatment and at least one company, Wessex Water, paid farmers to switch to organic agriculture to reduce chemical sprays. The sheer range of herbicides available has also helped to keep individual chemicals within the European limits.

Water companies are worried that widespread planting of gene altered crops and their reliance on two weedkillers could lead to an increase in breaches. Pamela Taylor, chief executive of Water UK, said there were other concerns including the impact of wastes from animals eating the gene-altered crops. The industry is disappointed that it has not won the right to be told where such crops are being planted so it can monitor their impact.

John Fowell, chief toxicologist at the Water Research Centre in Henley-on-Thames, believes that gene-altered crops could be a boon to the environment. Seed companies say that farmers will need to use less sprays. He added: "This needs to be strictly monitored. If there is concern, it centres on breakdown products of these herbicides building up in ground water."



Elizabeth too: the Queen at costumiers Angels and Bermans in London yesterday

Continued from page 1  
Plenty. "It's quite terrifying; it's such an extraordinary play," said the former Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth II ran into her ancestor again at the theatrical costumiers Angels and Bermans, where there was a reminder of her own theatrical past, a 1944 photograph of herself and her sister performing in *Old Mother Red Riding Boots*, one of a series of Christmas pantomimes they mounted at Windsor during the war. It was time for the interval.

## Royalty in West End

consisting of lunch at the Ivy. The lucky ladies who got to sit next to the Queen over a lunch of plum tomato and basil galeto, salmon fishcakes and Scandinavian ice cream were Dr Jonathan Miller and Michael Codron, producer of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.

The final act of the afternoon starred Lord Atten-

ough and was played at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, of which Dickie is chairman. He showed the Queen fencing classes, an expression class for visiting Japanese actors, and students rehearsing a death scene from the Jacobean tragedy *The Changeling*.

"I started this morning with young people at the Young Vic, and they were dying like flies," the Queen said brightly, telling the drama coach that it was crucial to ask the dying heroine to breathe more deeply when she was wearing such a tight corset.

## No job for 400 doctors trained at £40m

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of urgently needed specialist doctors, who cost the National Health Service millions of pounds to train, face dismissal because there is no money to provide them with jobs.

The first notices have been sent out terminating the doctors' contracts: they take effect from the end of this month. By May 2001 about 400 doctors, trained at a cost of £40 million, will have to quit medicine, go abroad or start another five-year course in another specialty with no certainty of a job at the end of it.

The doctors are obstetricians and gynaecologists but the British Medical Association said yesterday that because of "shambolic workforce planning" they would be only the first specialists to be hit in this way. Before long, ear, nose and throat specialists, as well as cardio-thoracic and renal surgeons would face similar problems. At the same time there would be unfilled vacancies for radiologists and psychiatrists.

"This is a human tragedy for trained, experienced doctors who are being put on the scrapheap in their thirties, and for the women and children who are dying because of lack of care," Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA, said. "We have been warning the Government for years that this was going to happen and this is just the first crisis."

"It will happen in other specialisms too. The frightening thing is the Government thinks it has a good workforce plan when in fact it is shambolic. These doctors have been betrayed and deceived. They have spent years in medical school, done all the terrible hours of junior doctors, completed more training to become a specialist and are now being told they are redundant."

Nizam Mamode, deputy chairman of the Junior Doctors' committee, said the Government was wasting a perfect opportunity to improve maternity care. "It is a scandal that these people are being jettisoned while women don't get the care they deserve," he said. "The scandal does not stop there. There is to be a reduction of 293 being accepted for training but the Health Department have refused to spend the £5.4 million that this will save on hiring the consultants who have already been trained. The whole thing seems crazy."

About 500 doctors were recruited to train as obstetricians and gynaecologists over the past five years because the NHS estimated in the early 1990s that there was a need for 7 per cent more consultant posts in the specialty. However, the ongoing cash squeeze in the NHS means that only 2 per cent more posts have been created and last year there were 28 vacancies in the field.

## Census to ask if couples are gay

Questions on personal relationships that will determine for the first time how many people are living as homosexual couples are to be included in the 2001 census.

It will also ask people their religion for the first time since 1851 and contain new questions on race, including one asking those who class themselves as white to say whether they are Irish.

Couples will be asked to indicate either if they are married, unmarried or "partners". The data will be analysed to find out how many couples of the same sex describe themselves as partners. The question was welcomed by gay rights campaigners, who argued that it would give the first official recognition to homosexual "marriages".

## E. coli outbreak

An 18-month-old girl is one of three children seriously ill with possible kidney failure after an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning in Cumbria. Twenty-five people have been affected and 11 are still in hospital. Health officials are checking a possible link with milk from a farm at Brigham near Cockermouth.

## Smaller classes

Ministers expect to more than halve the number of young children in large classes after allocating another £150 million to provide new classrooms and employ more teachers in primary schools. It is forecast that fewer than 200,000 children aged five to seven will be in classes of more than 30 by September.

## Porpoise dies

A pregnant porpoise that was rescued by divers from the Thames at Westminster died minutes later. Paul Jepson of London Zoo, who was carrying out a post-mortem examination, said there was no obvious cause of death. He said the 4ft harbour porpoise might have been distressed after being stranded at a low tide.

## Vet rents scanner

A hospital in West Sussex is to raise money by renting a scanner used to detect brain and spine tumours to a vet. Officials at Worthing Hospital said that there was no health risk and that patients would retain priority over pets. The vet, Ralph Abercromby, is to use the £600,000 machine two or three evenings a week.

## CORRECTION

Our map showing local government elections in May 1999 omitted the 36 Metropolitan Boroughs such as Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Birmingham, where one third of the seats are up for election this year. Also left out were the district councils in which all the council seats are being contested in May.

## Solicitors hit back after 'seamy' slur

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' leaders angrily denounced the Government last night after a minister told them to get their house in order and crack down on the "seamy" side of the profession.

The Law Society told a Home Office minister to "put up or shut up" in a clash over allegedly poor and incompetent advice offered to asylum seekers and immigrants. Michael Mathews, the President of the Law Society, signalled that the profession had finally lost patience with the Government following the latest criticism from the immigration minister.

Mike O'Brien, the minister who is also a solicitor, said there were real concerns about the activities of some solicitors. He said: "There is a clear message to the legal profession. There is a seamy side to my profession and I want that seamy side cleaned up."

He added: "The Law Society have been asked to sort it out and we expect them to do so. We don't want to have these advisers and lawyers providing

incompetent and sometimes corrupt advice."

"We expect the Law Society and the Bar, in some respects, to ensure that the law is cleaned up."

Mr O'Brien, who was speaking at a conference in London organised by the Immigration Advisory Service, gave warning that if the Law Society did not rid the profession of poor immigration lawyers the Government would require solicitors to register under a new system of regulation.

The Government is to set up statutory regulation of non-legally qualified immigration advisers but has exempted solicitors because the Law Society has agreed to introduce improved training for firms offering legal advice on immigration and asylum issues.

The Law Society said it had repeatedly requested information from the Home Office about firms involved in providing incompetent advice. It said without detailed allegations it was powerless to act against firms.

## Aitken 'recovering from stroke'

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister who is awaiting sentence for perjury and perverting the course of justice, was said yesterday to be recovering from a minor stroke.

The stroke apparently happened last week and involved burst blood vessels that affected his sight. His lawyers said he was expected to make a full recovery, but his mother at first said she knew nothing about it. However, Lady Aitken said later: "I gather he has had what they call a mini-stroke, not an incapacitating sort. He is perfectly all right."

Said Aitken, Aitken's friend and former business partner, yesterday walked free from the Old Bailey after charges against him of attempting to pervert the course of justice were dropped. The former MP had pleaded not guilty to the latter charge, which had been jointly laid against the two men.

After the hearing, Mr Ayas said: "I am

## Case is dropped against ex-business partner, writes Michael Horsnell

very relieved. It is has been a very stressful time when you are in a case like this." The withdrawal of the two charges against Mr Ayas — together with the fact that Aitken, 54, has already admitted other charges — mean that details of their relationship, which might have embarrassed the Saudi Arabian royal family and the British Government, will never be heard in open court.

Aitken, who was Defence Procurement Minister and then Chief Secretary to the Treasury under John Major, made a £20-million confession to police admitting he had woven a web of deceit during his unsuccessful bid to win a £100-million contract for the Royal Air Force.

vision for which he still has to pay £2 million in costs. His civil action centred on the allegation that he had stayed at the Ritz in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi friends — in breach of rules covering government ministers. It was his lying at the High Court about the trip that led to criminal charges.

Aitken subsequently confessed that he alone was responsible for forcing his wife Lolita, his teenage daughter Victoria and Mr Ayas to tell lies in witness statements. In his confession, Aitken detailed how the Saudis paid a second hotel bill for him as a minister the day after the infamous jaunt in Paris. The Times understands.

The Lebanese-born Mr Ayas, 56, formally pleaded not guilty yesterday to the two charges against him, and Mr Justice Potts directed that not-guilty verdicts be recorded.

Details of Aitken's confession were disclosed at a committal hearing in December which could not then be reported.

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# Lakeside: the business end of the affair

By CAROL MIDDLELEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

## THE TOUR

WHEN Monica Lewinsky began her affair with the US President it is unlikely that she saw it ending with a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex.

The shopping and fast-food emporium, which starred in a recent BBC docu-soap, is, however, where she can be seen at 11.20am on Saturday week, signing copies of Andrew Morton's book and fulfilling that obligatory requirement of the modern book deal — the publicity blitz.

Miss Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around the country in 18 days. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; and the new Bluewater complex in Kent.

Security will be almost as tight as for a president. A firm of private security guards has spent weeks studying the layout of book shops as far afield as Glasgow and Bath and advising managers on where she should sit and where the pub-

lic, clamouring for a glimpse of the world's most famous lover, should queue up.

Miss Lewinsky will have 24-hour use of a chauffeur-driven Mercedes courtesy of her publishers, Michael O'Mara Books, and will be accompanied at all times by a bodyguard, a publicist and two sales managers.

Many celebrities refuse to tour book shops outside London, but Miss Lewinsky, 25, has gamely agreed to a sometimes gruelling schedule.

By tradition she will make her debut at Harrods, where she will sit at the desk where such historic figures as Mikhail Gorbachev, Norman Schwarzkopf and Baroness Thatcher have autographed copies of their weighty tomes.

A spokesman for Harrods said: "She will not be coming in through one of the main public entrances, she will be coming in the back way and up to the Art Room where many, many famous people have signed their books."

He added that Harrods was expecting big crowds and security would be at a maximum. Within three hours of an advertisement being placed in Lon-

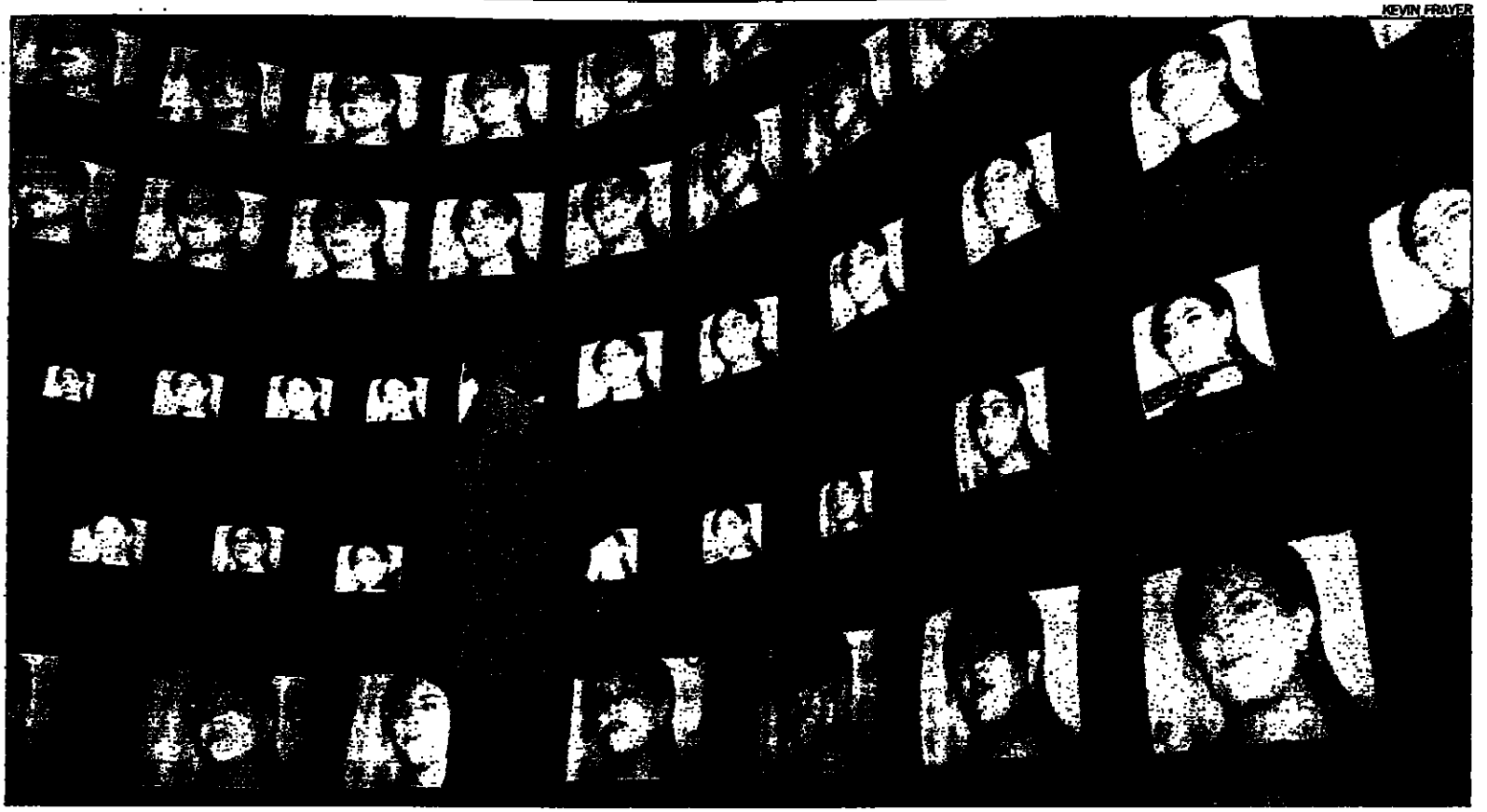
don's *Evening Standard*, 150 orders had been placed for reserved signed copies of *Monica's Story*.

Press photographers and cameramen will be allowed to take pictures of the former Whitehouse intern for 15 minutes before signings. However, journalists are not allowed to ask her questions.

A spokeswoman for Dillons in Newcastle, which Miss Lewinsky will visit on March 16, said: "She is bringing her own security people who we understand have been supplied by the publishers. We had a visit from them last week to look over the store. She will not be sitting at street level."

"We are really looking forward to it. Not all famous people are prepared to go outside of London to promote their books so we think there will be a real buzz to the day."

The author Andrew Morton, who is in the US promoting the book until March 13, will join her at Waterstones in Leeds on March 16. Miss Lewinsky has visited Britain once before during her work with the Pentagon. Later, in December 1997, she wrote a letter to Bill Clinton in which she said: "I loved you with all of my heart. Bill, and wanted to



A shop assistant watches Ms Lewinsky's ABC interview at a store in Toronto. A record 70 million Americans are believed to have tuned in

## The show that stopped a nation

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

### THE TELEVISION DEBUT

AMERICANS, many of whom have been insisting for months that they just wanted Monica Lewinsky to go away, made her first television interview the most watched news programme in the nation's history.

The ABC said that provisional ratings figures indicated that 70 million people had watched some or all of the interview with Barbara Walters on Wednesday night. That unexpectedly eclipsed the 62 million who saw Oprah Winfrey's interview with Michael Jackson in 1993 and

the 34 million who saw the interview with the Clintons in the wake of allegations during the 1992 campaign that Mr Clinton had an affair with Gennifer Flowers. Opinion polls have consistently shown that Americans claim they are fed up with the Lewinsky saga but the ratings demonstrated that a quarter of the population could not resist hearing what she had to say, and that more than half the nation's television sets were tuned in.

In bars, gyms and airport lounges across the country, all eyes were on Ms

Lewinsky, weeping and joking by turn. At Washington's Dulles Airport, passengers stepping off planes delayed by bad weather crowded around television sets to watch Ms Lewinsky tell her tale. "We are thrilled," an ABC spokeswoman said yesterday. The network charged about \$400,000 for each 30 second advertising spot during the interview.

Ms Lewinsky, who was not paid, had said that she wanted to tell people she was not a strumpet. She appeared to have had some success, with 44 percent of viewers saying that they thought more favourably of her after the broadcast, according to an ABC poll.

## Pentagon protects identity of President's love rival

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

### THE OTHER MAN

THE Pentagon yesterday shielded the identity of the defence official whose child Monica Lewinsky said she aborted during her relationship with President Clinton.

Ms Lewinsky refers to him with only a first name, "Thomas". In Andrew Morton's book *Monica's Story* she described him as "brilliant and exciting" in her interview on American television but was reluctant to say much more about him.

She did tease Mr Clinton about there being another man, telling him that he had competition. She did not tell him about the abortion, which she had found to be "just horrible and very depressing".

Thomas, 42, a civilian policy strategist, was single at the time of his three-month affair with Ms Lewinsky but has since married. He was said to have recoiled in horror when her relationship with Mr Clinton became public knowledge in January last year.

Thomas and Ms Lewinsky first met as members of a US delegation visiting Bosnia while she worked as an administrative assistant to Ken Bacon, the chief Pentagon spokesman. She was moved to the Pentagon by White House staff who thought she was see-

ing too much of the President. Soon after Bosnia she saw Thomas for a date and he invited her to stay the night at her house, according to the book. She declined because the President might call her at home, as indeed he did, and they chatted far into the night.

She ended the affair with Thomas because, ironically, he was seeing other women and by then it was clear he was never going to be the new love of her life. "I enjoyed his company and I had feelings for him but not very strong feelings," Ms Lewinsky said. She discovered that she was pregnant just as the affair was ending in October 1996.

At the Pentagon, senior officials turned aside questions about the identity of Thomas, saying the affair was consensual and was not connected with defence policy. Colleagues have described him as an innocent bystander who did nothing improper. A Clinton aide said: "This may be the only example of someone whose life hasn't been ruined by an association with the scandal."

The Morton book, which went on sale in America yesterday, sheds new light on potential problems facing Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over alleged strong-arm



The Morton book: not covered by Starr ban

tactics used by his staff. Under the immunity agreement in exchange for her grand jury testimony, Ms Lewinsky was barred from discussing the conduct of Mr Starr's staff on television but the deal did not apply to the book.

One chapter recounts how Michael Emmick, a Starr prosecutor, called her lawyer, William Ginsburg, and offered to fax a copy of the affidavit in which she denied having an affair with Mr Clinton. She had signed the false statement in connection with the Paula Jones case. Two FBI agents who were in the room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel near the Pentagon pulled Mr Emmick roughly away from the telephone. They realised that Mr Ginsburg would instantly real-

ise that Starr's office had seen the affidavit before it was filed with the court and it must have come from Ms Jones's lawyers, the book says.

The US Justice Department is investigating whether Mr Starr's staff had improper contacts with Ms Jones's lawyers and attempted to make Ms Lewinsky co-operate with them without letting her have a lawyer present. Ms Lewinsky has said she was petrified by threats that she could be imprisoned for 27 years for obstruction of justice.

It was to be many months, however, before she signed the immunity deal that enabled Mr Starr to proceed. Without her help and without the infamous stained dress, he would have been unable to make the case for impeachment against the President.

Asked on television about the dress, Ms Lewinsky said: "It's fun to think it was a souvenir but that's not what it was." She explained that she did not know what the stains were at first and the reason why she never had the garment dry-cleaned was because she had grown too fat for it.

Ms Lewinsky said there was no new Prince Charming in her life but she would still like to marry and have children. She was asked how she would describe her presidential affair to them.

"Mommy made a big mistake," she replied, grinning.

## 'He didn't have to deny the relationship with such anger'

### THE INTERVIEW

By OUR MEDIA  
CORRESPONDENT

MONICA LEWINSKY last night answered any lingering doubts as to whether she might still be in love with President Clinton.

In an interview with Jon Snow on Channel 4, she recalled the precise moment her feelings towards him turned sour. She said that she now switched channels if he appeared on television.

Miss Lewinsky, 25, could not hide the bitterness as she told Snow that she had come to realise that "rather than there being a man, Bill Clinton, he's 100 per cent politician". She added: "He's a good politician, but 100 per cent politician." Asked whether she hated or loved him when she saw him on television, she said: "Not love him, but sometimes I hate him."

Most of her hatred was clearly reserved for Linda Tripp, the woman who taped the conversations in which Ms Lewinsky detailed her affair. "She gutted me. She violated me. She knifed me." The former White House intern also disclosed that she would



Monica Lewinsky with her interviewer, Jon Snow

like the famous semen-stained Gap dress returned to her so that she could burn it.

Her illusions about the President were shattered, she said, when she saw him on national television denying that he had ever had a sexual relationship with "that woman Monica Lewinsky".

"I remember exactly where I was, sitting on the bed in the apartment, watching TV, legs crossed... I felt I could see and hear in his voice and his actions how very angry he was with me. And that hurt. He could have denied this relationship in a different way. He

didn't have to do it with such — such anger."

She said she knew she no longer loved him when she heard that he had told White House staff that she was a "stalker" who had entrapped him. "That was the moment and the realisation that I fell completely out of love with him."

"I had hoped that he had sort of, y'know, turned a blind eye and said, 'Do what you need to protect me but I don't want to be a part of it, and instead he was in there, writing all the plays.'"

During the interview, which

has been sold by Channel 4 to more than 30 countries, she admitted that she had been devoted to President Clinton and had hoped for a future with him after he left office.

The first time she had seen him it had "taken her breath away". "He has a very magnetic sense about him and he's very sensual and attractive and draws you into his energy," she said.

"He just sort of looks at you, he locks eyes with you and he sort of peels away the layers of your being with his eyes and with his energy and his spirit and it's very intense."

One of the things she had found most humiliating was the idea that their sex had been "one-sided". "This notion that... I received nothing is false... [during] the first encounter he concentrated on me and focused on me more before I focused on him."

However, she admitted: "He didn't say he was in love with me, no."

Asked what she would say if she saw him again, Miss Lewinsky said she would apologise for being "indiscreet about the relationship". But she added: "Right now I could think of a few other people that I'd rather spend an evening with than him."





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MPs and the industry began intensive campaigning to protect the mills' 2,300 staff when the 100 per cent tariff on 14 randomly chosen items was mooted by the US in December. Their efforts appeared to have failed, with the mills becoming the main victim of a dispute that has nothing to do with them.

Half of all European cashmere and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the Borders. In towns such as Hawick nine in ten jobs are dependent on the industry. Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, accused the US of declaring "economic warfare" on the region by targeting its main employer.

David Douglas, chief executive of Scottish Borders Enterprise, welcomed the Government's intervention yesterday. But he said: "Morale is still very low. We are all going to

be on tenterhooks for the next six weeks until the World Trade Organisation makes its ruling. There is a fear that this could get worse and we have no control over it."

The government pledge provided a lifeline for Clan Douglas, a Hawick company that exports 90 per cent of its luxury knitwear to the US. Without it the firm would have closed by August, Arthur Rennie, the fac-

The situation is desperate. Having to pay these bonds would have meant we quite literally would have run out of cash. The government pledge

will have to last for the duration of the threat. It needs to call America's bluff, otherwise it will be disastrous," he said. "The US has known from the start what these trade sanc-

the start what these trade sanctions would mean for the Scottish Borders but has continued to pursue them relentlessly. There is supposed to be a Tartan Day in the States on April 6; black armbands would be more appropriate."

Concern had been growing that nervous US customers were looking elsewhere for suppliers because of the uncertainty caused by the banana war. George Peden, chief executive officer of the

utive of the Scottish Cashmere Association, said: "Our biggest concern was that we needed to give our customers confidence that they could place the orders with Scotland and we would deliver the goods without the 100 per cent duty. That is the lifeline the Government has given us."

The Borders economy has already been hit hard by the strong pound and the economic crisis in the Far East, which resulted in thousands of job losses in textiles and the electronics industry, the area's other main employer.

"If the mills close, there will be nothing left for Hawick," said Betty Turnbull, 55, who works for Clan Douglas and has been in the industry all her life, like her parents.

**Letters, page 23**



**FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI**

**OFFICIALS** for the Clinton Administration say the decision to take the banana issue to the World Trade Organisation was based on a mix of US corporate interest and the principle of free trade. But others detect a more sinister explanation.

The three biggest US fruit companies — Dole, Chiquita Brands and Del Monte — control about 66 per

cent of the world market compared with the Caribbean growers' 3 per cent. Chiquita complains that Europe's tariffs cost it more than £60 million a year in revenues.

Expecting to expand their markets in Eastern Europe dramatically after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, American companies invested heavily in their Latin American plantations but have seen little return.

the mid-90s, when Chiquita was pressing the Clinton Administration to take its case before the WTO. Carl Lindner, Chiquita's chairman, reportedly donated more than \$1 million to the Democrat Party. In fact the Cincinnati-based tycoon has been pumping money into US campaign coffers — Democrat and Republican — for decades. Critics say the donations are what enabled Mr Lindner to win sudden access to the

Clinton Administration — including key meetings with Milkey Kantor when US Trade Representative.

America has a long history of defending the banana companies' interests in Latin America. In 1954 the CIA helped to overthrow Jacobo Arbenz, Guatemala's socialist president, in part to protect the plantations of the United Fruit Company, as Chiquita was then known. The companies' influence in Central

America earned Honduras its "banana republic" reputation. The companies notoriously vied for government favours, paying huge bribes.

In 1975 Eli Black, the chairman of United Fruit, committed suicide after it was disclosed that he paid a \$1.25 million bribe to the Honduran Government. The Honduran President was subsequently toppled by a military coup. Although more democratic governments have emerged in

Central America, the US companies remain highly protective of their domain. In the early 1990s their influence was demonstrated when they tried to elbow out the British company Fyffes, which was trying to get into the Central American market.

Fyffes executives in northern Honduras had to arm themselves with stun guns against attacks and kidnapping attempts by police allegedly in the pay of Americans.

BRITISH-AMERICAN relations have always been more about national interest than sentiment. Usually there has been close co-operation on defence and intelligence, yet both countries have from time to time disagreed on economic and trade matters. That was vividly illustrated yesterday in the Commons when George Robertson's assertion of Anglo-US solidarity on the Iraq no-fly zone was followed by Stephen Byers's theatrical announcement that he had "summoned" the American Ambassador over the banana

**Peter RIDDE**  
**ON PO**

dispute. Talk of "carpeting" and the like is gesture politics that exaggerates the current strains on Washington/London relations and gives a misleading impression of what the dispute involves.

The British and American Governments have almost always been able to balance differences over trade issues with close agreement in other areas. The Blair and Clinton Administrations now see eye to eye on Bosnia, Iraq, Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

Nonetheless, the banana dispute matters, not least because it has developed into such a public spat. Washington and Brussels have argued for several years over American claims that Europe gives unfair access to bananas imported from former colonies in the Caribbean and Africa. *No jobs in Europe or America* are directly affected by the banana trade, as opposed to the threatened retribution.

The Clinton Administration and British sceptics accuse Brussels of being intransigent and flouting the spirit of the rules of the World Trade Organisation. In Washington's view, European concessions after past WTO rulings still allow a regime that discriminates against US distributors of Lat-

in American fruit. The EU, and Mr Byers, argue that the American retaliatory tariffs are unlawful under WTO rules, as well as inflammatory. A WTO arbitrators' panel is considering whether the EU has complied with its previous ruling.

There have been rumblings from the European side that the White House may have been too influenced by Carl Lindner, the chairman of the banana group Chiquita Brands International, who has been a sizeable political donor. At the same time, the

Clinton Administration has been under pressure from Congress, which might have wanted mandatory sanctions if action had not been taken on Wednesday. These measures are partly symbolic and intended to buy time until the arbitrators' report is ready.

Underlying this argument is the threat of more general protectionism across the Atlantic. Congress and American policymakers are worried about the rapidly rising US trade deficit and have been pressing for cuts in European interest rates to boost growth.

This has led to increasing tensions: for instance, on Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a Bill that would ban Concorde from flying into the US if the EU proceeds with plans to ban certain older, noisier American planes. This is all about American claims that the European Airbus has an unfair advantage.

At stake is not just the authority of the WTO, and greater Congressional resentment at such multinational bodies, but also broader economic and trade tensions between the US and Europe. The failure of normal diplomacy to resolve such a minor dispute as that on bananas shows how tricky relations have become.

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# Examiner punched by driver taking test

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# republics

The maximum penalties un-

The prosecution is being brought on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service. It was not clear yesterday whether it would have taken any account of the civil proceedings.

The couple reappeared in January when it emerged that they and the girls had been living in "good-girl-fu" accommo-



atric help; and parents in "tup of love" cases where the abduction was normally dealt with by injunctions in the civil courts. "None of these would seem to be appropriate here,"

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

Mr George said yesterday: "I have dealt with my son in the same way I would with any other pupil. He was suspended for three days but is now back in classes and the matter is over. Justice has been done."

**BY HELEN JOHNSTONE**

Sentence on Wandless, the eldest of four children living with his mother in Newbury, was adjourned for reports. He said after the hearing: "I should have just walked away. I looked down and saw three big crosses. I have spent hundreds of pounds on lessons and have had at least three different instructors. I think I am going to give up now."

By PAUL WILKINSON

Bunty Batra, his counsel, said that Buckland had had domestic problems. "Parliament did not intend that defendants who go into a bank with a toy gun and a note with their name and address on should get a sentence of life imprisonment."



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# Crash victim thinks wife is an impostor

A LOVING husband turned cold against his wife because he believes she has been replaced by an impostor, a court was told yesterday. Alan Davies is convinced that his real wife of 31 years died in a car crash and he now refuses even to hug the woman who still shares his life.

Mr Davies, 52, was awarded £130,000 damages yesterday after it was claimed that his rare medical syndrome was caused by the crash that he and his wife, Christine, 50, both survived.

The husband suffered minor injuries and shock and his wife had whiplash. But he has flashbacks of his wife screaming and lying dead. In his psychological condition, known as Capgras Syndrome, patients suffer a break in the link between areas of the brain responsible for visual recognition and emotional response, and the mind tries to rationalise it by concluding that a familiar face has been replaced by an impostor.

After the crash in September 1995, in which another driver cut across the couple's car, Mr Davies, from Rhonda, South Wales, has been

**Husband wins  
£130,000 after  
courts hears of  
rare syndrome,  
reports Simon  
de Bruxelles**

forced to give up his job as a craft teacher at the Tonypanody Comprehensive School.

His wife, whom he now calls Christine II, told the High Court in Cardiff: "Before the accident he was an extrovert, very spontaneous and emotional. He was sociable and animated. Every day when we got up for breakfast he would say 'Good morning, I love you' and would give me a kiss. We would go out a lot and had a very happy sex life."

"Our only contact now is when I give him a hug, but he doesn't respond. He doesn't want to talk about anything. Only our old friends come round because only they know not to get upset when Alan gets up and leaves the room

without saying a word." The couple's eldest daughter, Caroline Davies, 29, said: "Before the accident my dad was the life and soul of the party. Now they don't interact any more. Dad is constantly stressed by any show of affection."

Mr Davies said that he had been prescribed medication but did not always take it: "I have good days and bad days but I still believe my wife has died. We have discussed divorce but she doesn't want to."

Dr Sudad Jawad, a consultant psychiatrist, told the court: "When they came to see me he never acted as though he was sitting next to a real person. After two years of treating Alan I came to the conclusion that his delusion is fixed and will sadly never go away."

Mr Davies sued the other driver, Thomas Williams, 55, for loss of earnings and damages. Mr Williams, from Aber-tillery, near Newport, admitted liability for the crash but denied causing the psychiatric problems. After Mr Davies' case was put to court, Mr Williams' insurance company offered £130,000 plus costs.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay said: "This is a sensible conclusion. It has been a tragic case but the right outcome has been reached."

The couple declined to comment as they left court, walking several feet apart. Capgras Syndrome is named after one of two French doctors who identified it in the 1920s. It can be brought on by severe depressive illness or a head injury. A leading authority, the psychiatrist Dr David Enoch, said: "It is one of the rarest psychiatric illnesses in the world. The victim is usually a man who is under the delusion that his wife is a double."



Alan Davies and his wife, whom he calls Christine II

## £135,000 for mechanic frightened by police

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A CAR mechanic has been unable to face work since the day he emerged from beneath the vehicle he was working on to be confronted by eight policemen pointing guns at him.

Graham Parker was awarded £135,000 compensation against Hampshire police yesterday. He was not in court to hear the award because he had suffered a panic attack and gone home.

Salisbury Crown Court was told that Mr Parker, 35, from Portsmouth, had suffered post-traumatic stress since the incident in 1993 when police, mistakenly believing him to be an armed criminal, surrounded him outside his house as he repaired a car that had been linked to two firearms incidents in Liverpool.

At an earlier hearing Mr Parker said: "I saw eight guns pointing at me. I heard a double click. I thought: I'm dead."

Hampshire police, who are to appeal, claimed Mr Parker had exaggerated his problems. A spokeswoman said: "There is no evidence that he cannot tolerate being in other working environments."

## Health officers found meal hard to swallow

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES, WEST OF ENGLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE banquet laid on by a hotel for environmental health officers left them distinctly unimpressed. The next day the Webkington Hotel, near Weston-super-Mare, was raided by council inspectors who reported it for breaching hygiene regulations.

The 260 officials from around Britain had expected a feast that would be the highlight of a conference on air quality held by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection. First they were told the chef had forgotten to take the salmon mousse out of the freezer and there would be no starter. When the main course arrived they refused to eat it. They complained about the wine and that the service was poor. When the time came to pay the bill they refused.

The embarrassed host, Piers Furlong, chief environmental health officer with the local Sedgemoor District Council in Somerset, said: "The meal was a disaster. The salmon mousse never arrived because it was still frozen. The

main course was appalling — I couldn't eat it, and the wine was not very nice. It was extremely disappointing for premises of that standard. It's a shame because I have had some very good meals there."

Mr Furlong says the next day's inspection was coincidental, a claim the hotel's manager, Sanjay Kantaria, finds as hard to swallow as frozen salmon mousse. Mr Kantaria said: "It was surprising they sent two inspectors instead of the normal one and the inspection took four hours instead of the normal 20 minutes."

The hotel has agreed to waive the bill and Mr Kantaria said: "We admit that a junior chef made a mistake which meant we could not serve a starter but we acted responsibly in not serving something which could have been a health risk. There was no problem with the wine or service."

Sedgemoor's environment committee has recommended that the hotel be cautioned for the faults. The hotel's solicitor said that these were minor and had soon been corrected.



Fake fur and hipsters: Dolce e Gabanna are tired of creating everyday wear

## Kitsch and colour collide on the Milanese catwalk

**Lisa Armstrong sees Dolce e Gabanna present a tongue-in-cheek show, complete with Day-Glo coats and lime python boots, designed to surprise rather than sell**



THE chilly Milanese rain beat down on a turgid-lit marquee that had been erected a couple of days earlier in the courtyard of the Via San Damiano headquarters of the fashion designers Dolce e Gabanna. Scores of crimson and pale coral roses bloomed round ponds filled with goldfish and lit with flickering church candles. A rustic scene of artfully chipped chairs and tables set with Parmesan and loaves rested mid-catwalk, bunches of grapes drooped atmospherically about the place.

The scene was Sicily. Domenico Dolce's birthplace and the source of much of the duo's creative impetus. The time was the feast day of Madonna — Madonna, Mother of Christ that is, though it could have just as easily have been the diva.

Dolce e Gabanna's Sicily is part Fellini, part Roberto Rossellini and part Carry On, hence the sheer manilla cloaks worn over semi-transparent leggings (something of a trend, worryingly) in the show's finale. Hence too, the hipster "peasant" skirts, fashioned from python shaggy fur, and the roughly finished cropped sheepskin jackets worn with very low-cut, beaded hipster capris.

It is all deliciously tongue in cheek and some of it is no doubt destined to end up in a fashion museum as a monument to late 20th century kitsch. How much of it will sell is another, probably irrelevant, question since so much

of the designers' turnover is fuelled by accessories, scent and pictures of Madonna the diva in their frocks.

The heavily beaded fluorescent yellow plastic mini raincoat, a beaded orange plastic belt doubling as a skirt, and the lime python boots with mirrored heels ("so you can sit down and put your make-up on while staring at your heels") were particularly fine examples of fashion as a photo-op — and to hell with the dreary business of making clothes women can wear every day.

Beyond the neon colours, the chunky multicoloured coats and jackets that were made from goat that had been made to look like monkey hair, were some dazzling pieces. Beaded capris and belts will tempt the rock star brigade while the long, Day-Glo coats with bracelet sleeves that were worn over those leggings will look rather elegant when they are made up in the inevitable black.

Before they unveiled their catwalk collection yesterday, Stefano Gabanna, 39, and Domenico Dolce, 41, announced that they were becoming tired of the fashion system, which they declared onerous and oppressive. Those addicted to the pair's imitable brand of corsetry-dressing will be relieved to know, however, that the length of their show (which comprised 150 outfits) suggested they were not thinking of shaking off their shackles any time too soon.



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The council has surveyed the postcode of every full-time student and given some univer-

As a result of changes to the Oxbridge funding system, the funding council's budget of £4.216 million for 1999-2000 includes £36 million previously paid direct to the Oxford and Cambridge colleges. Extra funds to reward high-quality work and to maintain historic buildings have helped to ensure that both of the ancient universities receive a funding increase this year close to the rate of inflation.

### University College London: biggest budget increase

ceive the biggest year-on-year rise under the settlements announced yesterday. Exeter University and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, which had poor research assessments, and Middlesex and Thames Valley universities, which failed to meet last year's recruitment targets, receive the lowest settlement.

The settlement for Thames Valley, whose vice-chancellor resigned after a critical inspection report, is conditional on the submission later this

Brian Fender, the funding council's chief executive, said that extra money would be available to tackle previous underinvestment in university buildings and equipment.

The last of five people questioned in the past week by Irish detectives investigating the Omagh bombing has been freed. He was released without charged after three days' interrogation at Monaghan police station.

Parts of the Greenland ice sheet are thinning by more than a metre each year, Nasa scientists have found. They believe that the ice is sliding increasingly quickly into the sea, causing a faster rise in sea levels than melting alone.

The *Stena Explorer*, ferrying more than 300 people and 70 cars from Anglesey to Dun Laoghaire, was believed to have been holed below the waterline when it hit a pier wall while attempting to dock in Ireland. No-one was hurt.

A Lincolnshire dog breeder sold dogs that she falsely claimed had Kennel Club pedigrees. Jill Allen, who admitted forgery and trying to obtain money by deception, was bailed at Nottingham Crown Court pending sentencing.

A man has appeared before Loughborough magistrates charged with murdering Rachel Glenn, 15, whose body was found in Charnwood Water, Leicestershire. Anthony Holland, 21, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody.

**EXCUSE REFUSED**  
A former racing driver who lost an arm in a crash has failed to convince magistrates in Swindon that he is fit to drive. Donald Day, 64, who steers with his knees while changing gear, was appealing against the revocation of his licence.

BY HANNAH BETTS

**BRITAIN'S** children are becoming a generation of couch potatoes as physical education is sidelined by the demands of the National Curriculum and a lack of funds, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

A survey of more than 2,000 schools by the association highlighted problems ranging from poorly maintained playing fields to a decline in inter-school competitions.

Forty per cent of primary schools and a fifth of secondary schools said that their sports programmes had deteriorated. Half of the primaries and a third of the secondaries blamed their obligations under the National Curriculum.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "Sports facilities in too many schools are not that much better than those in a banana republic. Unless the Government is prepared to push this issue to the top of the political agenda, we will see this country's youngsters turn into a generation of couch potatoes."

Charles Clarke, the Schools Minister, said: "The Government is providing £1.1 billion for capital works in schools, including sports facilities."

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# Giant body to head sale of the millennium

THE 90ft body that will dominate the Millennium Dome is to be the prize lot in a huge sale of the exhibition's contents when it closes at the end of 2000.

**All the Dome's contents can be bought at the end of next year, reports Mark Henderson**

Theme parks, museums and those who have everything are expected to bid in excess of £10 million for the giant sculpture of a man and woman embracing, which houses the Body Zone. The exhibit, which is as tall as Nelson's Column, features an interactive tour of bodily functions from heartbeats to hangovers.

The sculpture could be sold abroad or to a private individual who would be under no obligation to open it to the public, even though it is part-funded by lottery money. The successful bidder will have to invest further in a building to house it: the body, designed by Nigel Coates and made of glass-reinforced concrete, is not weather-proof.

Other exhibits, such as the Mind Zone designed by Zaha Hadid, and the Spirit Level, which has attracted controversy for its lack of Christian content, will also be for sale. Only two zones will not be available: the rights to the Mobility and Communication zones will be retained by their sponsors, Ford and BT, though both are likely to remain on public view.

The Dome's attractions, including the central show, will cost £191 million out of its total budget of £758 million, with £400 million coming from the National Lottery.

The New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) will not say how much is being spent on individual zones but the Body Zone is understood to be one of the more expensive at more than £10 million.

"All the assets of NMEC will be up for sale," a spokesman for the company said. "Art galleries or museums will

be able to acquire internationally famous icons of cultural value."

NMEC plans to sell the contents individually and it is not envisaged that any will remain within the Dome. The future of the Dome itself, which cost £300 million to build, will be decided by an international competition launched yesterday by Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Government's shareholder in NMEC. More than 1,000 companies have been invited to make bids and the final decision will be made next year. Early suggestions include a conference or shopping centre, a sports stadium, a theme park or a film studio.

There will be no reserve price but working accounts suggest that it will go for at least £50 million. It will not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder: the competition will take into account how proposals will contribute towards the regeneration of the Greenwich peninsula.

Greenwich Council will also have to grant planning permission for the new use, following a full public consultation. Permission was granted for the Dome itself on the understanding that it would be environmentally friendly; the ban on car parking was one condition.

Lord Falconer said: "We want a fitting use for the Dome that preserves its design integrity, in keeping with

its role as a centrepiece of the millennium celebrations. We are determined that the Dome should not be a one-year wonder."

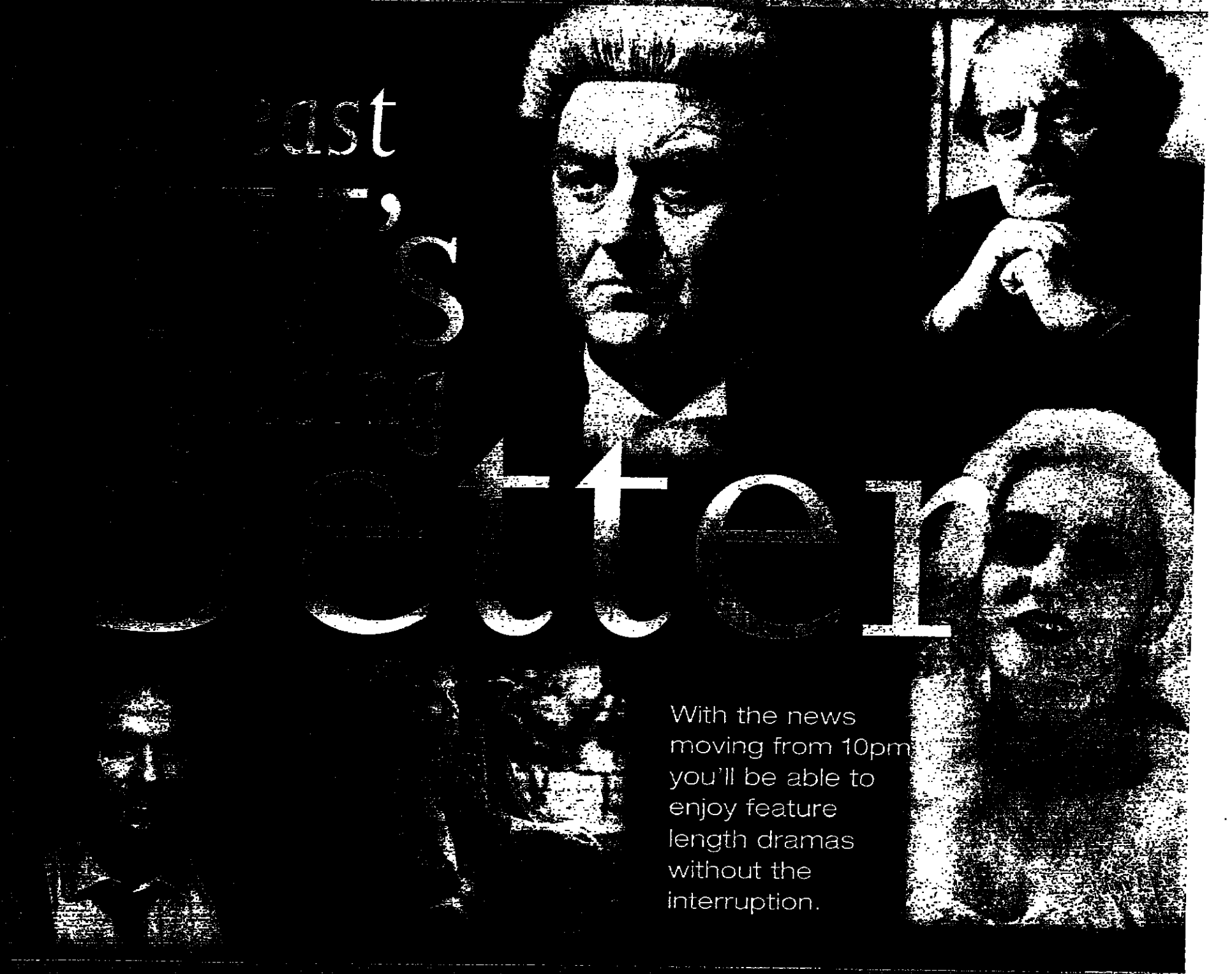
The Government is more concerned with ensuring that the Dome proves an appropriate legacy for the millennium than recouping its building costs, he said. With maintenance work every 25 years, it could last "for generations".

The money raised will be divided between English Partnerships, the Government regeneration agency that owns the site on which the Dome is built, and NMEC. If NMEC's share of the cash brings it into surplus, that money will be handed to the Millennium Commission to distribute in its normal way, while money paid to English Partnerships will replace part of its grant from the Treasury.



Lord Falconer of Thoroton said yesterday that maintenance work every 25 years could ensure the Millennium Dome could last "for generations".

# HUMAN CLONING NOW A REALITY?



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more feature length dramas from March 8th



The Body Zone is expected to go on sale for £10 million

## Australia turns down day of fame in Dome

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

IN A gesture that would make Barry Humphries's alter ego, Sir Les Patterson, drool, Australia has declined the offer of a day in the Millennium Dome to showcase its arts, history and civilisation.

The Australians have informed the exhibition organisers that it would take at least two days to do justice to their long list of cultural achievements.

A nation a day is being invited to Greenwich as part of the "Our Town's Story" exhibition, which is being sponsored by McDonald's, the hamburger restaurant chain.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has assigned a civil servant to work with the organisers, the New Millennium Experience Company, to persuade countries to join in.

South Africa, the United States, France, Canada and Japan have so far said they would like join the storytellers in the Dome, on what will be

called the "World Stage". So far 199 of the 209 local education authorities in the United Kingdom have signed up to send a delegation.

The £50 million National Programme for the millennium exhibition is being launched today by Michael Grade, the chairman of the Dome's creative review group. A new initiative, Reach for the Sky, aimed at helping teenagers to make career choices for the next millennium, is being announced, with sponsorship from the broadcaster BSkyB. It will give 1,200 people aged 14 to 16 the chance of four days intensive work experience in science and technology, the environment, journalism, sport, entertainment or the community.

Other elements of the National Programme include FutureTalk, SchoolNet 2000 and the National Skills Festival. The organisers claim everyone can take part. Children can get involved by joining the 6,000 schools that have already registered to enter the "Voices of Promise" contest to compose a song for the millennium. They can also join the £3,000 schools involved in the Tesco SchoolNet 2000 Internet "Domesday Book", which will go live in the Dome next year.

Everybody over the age of nine can get a free e-mail address from BT as part of the FutureTalk initiative, which aims to improve communication skills. Everyone can also contribute to their community's "Our Town's Story".



Patterson will miss out on cultural opportunity

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# Vanessa staff sacked over fake guests

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

THE BBC has sacked three members of staff from *The Vanessa Show* over allegations that fake guests appeared on the programme.

A fourth received a formal warning and was moved to another department and a freelance worker had his contract terminated as a result of a three-week investigation.

The daytime talk show hosted by Vanessa Feltz features traumatised guests making emotional confessions. It has been under attack since reports last month alleged that researchers had booked actors from a London agency to pose as members of the public.

A programme on domestic violence featured a "battered wife" who was really an unmarried actress and two strippers who had never met were recruited to play feuding sisters. A London businessman claimed that he was paid £100 for each guest he supplied to the show.

The BBC immediately suspended five members of the team, two producers and a researcher and launched an investigation.

The corporation also introduced new measures to stop fake guests appearing on chat shows. Guests must now provide identification and sign a declaration that states that their contribution will be "entirely honest and truthful".

A BBC spokeswoman said:



Feltz: her show has come under attack

"The investigation has not uncovered any evidence to prove that staff knowingly booked fake guests." She added that no other members of the *Vanessa* team would be questioned. The staff are not being named because they have 14 days to appeal against the decision.

A number of "confessional" shows and documentaries have recently been exposed as fake. Bogus guests have also appeared on ITV's rival programme *Trisha*.

Last week Channel 4 was fined £150,000 by the Independent Television Commission because it broadcast a documentary about young rent boys in which key scenes were faked. In *Too Much Too Young: Chickens* members of the production team posed as rent boys and their clients in three scenes. Channel 4 admitted that a "deliberate and organised deception took place".

Another Channel 4 programme, *Daddy's Girl*, was not shown after it emerged that the subjects had lied about their relationship.

Carlton was fined £2 million in January for showing *The Connection*, a documentary about the Colombian drugs trade that contained fake scenes.

The Independent Television Commission has written to independent and satellite broadcasters demanding reassurances about the authenticity of confessional shows.

Last week, following the claims about *The Vanessa Show*, the BBC governors issued a statement expressing serious concerns about standards. "The board will not tolerate fakes masquerading as fact," they said.



Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff fled after being arrested on a theft charge in South Wales



Alexis and Kathlene: said to believe their father is dead

## Hunt for American mother and girls

A JUDGE asked the public yesterday to help to find an American mother who vanished with her daughters after allegedly telling them their father had died in an accident.

Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff was divorced from her husband, Lars, a year ago. She fled with Alexis, 6, and Kathlene, 5, after a visit in July. Lawyers for Mr Imhoff sought help in Britain because his former wife was arrested on a charge of theft in Newport, South Wales, in January. She disappeared afterwards.

Sean McNally, solicitor for the father, said Mrs Shafer-Imhoff was a "Scarlet Pimpernel" who uses disguise to avoid

capture". He said the 34-year-old secretary may be travelling with her mother, Lonna Shafer, a businesswoman based in Switzerland. Mrs Shafer-Imhoff also uses the names Kathlene Anderson and Ashley Anderson.

Mr Imhoff, 38, a welder from North Dakota, has custody of the girls. At the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Summer appealed for the public to watch out for them. Mr McNally said: "They do not attend school to our knowledge. They lead a peripatetic life with a mother who has told them their father is dead."

Anyone with information is asked to contact 0171 242 2877 or 0171 936 6000.

## Reith kept 'hate list' in his head

By ROBIN YOUNG

LORD REITH, the first Director-General of the BBC, had a mental hate list that included Winston Churchill, Earl Mountbatten, Field Marshal Montgomery and the philosopher Bertrand Russell: his daughter has disclosed.

Reith's personal animosities are detailed by Marisa Leishman in an entry in *The Dictionary of Scottish Biography*. Mrs Leishman describes her father as an impossible man who was highly ambitious and kept a mental list of hundreds born in rivalries going back to the early days of the BBC.

Churchill clashed with Reith, head of the corporation from 1927 to 1938, over how the BBC organised its coverage. Though Reith was given minis-

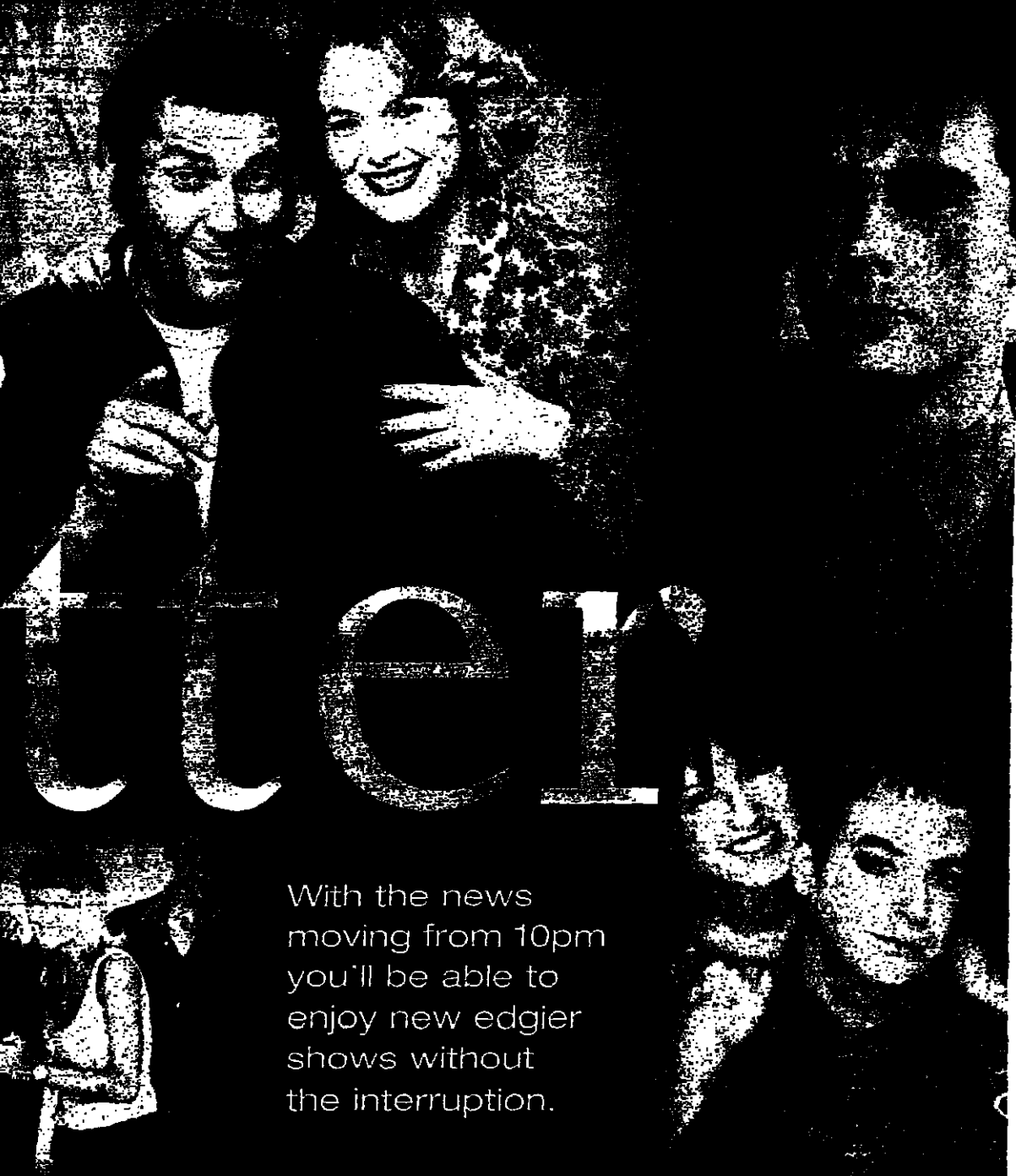
terial posts during the war years, he felt that the Prime Minister was unresponsive and unwelcoming towards him.

Of the other names on her father's hate list, Mrs Leishman said yesterday: "It was just a clash of very big personalities and rivalries." There was, she insisted, no vendetta against those on the list. "My father was a fair man and it was very much a personal stance."

Mrs Leishman said that Lord Reith, who died aged 81 in 1971, was obsessed with work at the expense of his family. "You didn't converse with Lord Reith. You listened respectfully, trying from time to time to poke in your bit - only to feel that it hadn't actually lodged anywhere."

# FRANKENSTEIN FOODS: RISKS UNKNOWN?

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# Alaska stays cool as chronically ill win the right to get stoned

Financier Soros championed campaign for homegrown cure, Giles Whittell writes

IT SHOULD be a mellow weekend for the dope smokers of Alaska. In a major step forward for a national legalisation campaign, Alaskans with permission from their doctors may now own up to three flowering marijuana plants and an ounce of the drug in smokeable form.

Alaska's medical marijuana law went into force yesterday despite stiff opposition from the state governor and other top officials. Passed after a campaign funded almost entirely by George Soros, the Hungarian-born financier, it de-

criminalises the drug for critically ill patients who say that it soothes their pain and boosts their appetite. In practice, critics argued, it has legalised marijuana at a stroke over an area nearly the size of Western Europe.

The new law allows sufferers of cancer, glaucoma, AIDS-related illnesses and other "debilitating" conditions to grow their own marijuana

without fear of arrest. It also requires the state to set up a register of users' names and issue identification cards to ward off suspicious police.

Though similar to measures already passed in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, the Alaskan law could prove a turning point in a nationwide crusade backed by film stars and

some doctors as well as legions of ex-hippies. It covers a thinly populated region larger than the other five states combined, where the freedoms of an increasingly crowded frontierland are jealously defended and the marijuana is as potent as any in the world.

Identification cards for legal users of the drug have not yet been issued even though the law was approved by 60 per cent of the state's voters in last November's election. Police have so far taken a conciliatory approach to its enforcement.

"Nothing could be worse than to

jack up some dying cancer patient on a drug charge," Del Smith, Alaska's deputy commissioner of public safety, said after the election. Police are now establishing new protocols for asking suspects why they need the drug.

In 1975 the state Supreme Court ruled that possession of small amounts of marijuana, even for recreational purposes, was allowed under a privacy clause in the Alaskan constitution.

Declared illegal again in 1990, marijuana has nonetheless become the relaxant of choice for

thousands of Aids and cancer patients across America.

In his guise as a philanthropist, Mr Soros backed California's 1996 medical marijuana initiative and paid \$126,000 (£78,000) towards gathering signatures and advertising for the Alaskan initiative last year. Government efforts to undermine the medical marijuana drive have foundered in the courts and the media.

Dan Lungren, the California Attorney General who vowed to prosecute dope-smokers whatever their illness, became a national laugh-

ing stock in the Doonesbury cartoon strip. Later in 1996 an attempt by the Clinton Administration to remove the licences of doctors who wrote chits approving marijuana use by their patients was struck down in a federal court.

The American Medical Association has refused to endorse marijuana as a therapy for grave illnesses, but sufferers claim that it lacks the side effects of prescription drugs. As one Alaskan with Aids put it: "Sure, I'm stoned for half an hour, but that's something I can live with."

## Pilot in cable car tragedy is cleared

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ITALIANS yesterday reacted with shock and anger to the acquittal of a US Marine pilot on all charges of reckless flying when his jet sheared a gondola cable above an Italian ski resort, killing 20 people just over a year ago.

Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, who is visiting the United States, described the verdict as "disconcerting" and "baffling". The Italian leader said he would like to know the reasoning behind the judgment and added that he would seek clarification from President Clinton today on whether further legal steps were possible in the US.

"If those accused are not guilty then we would like to know who is," Signor D'Alema said. A court-martial jury of eight officers cleared Captain Richard Ashby, 31, an officer with an impeccable record, on 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter, dereliction of duty and other charges that carried a maximum penalty of 200 years in prison.

The verdict, after a five-week trial at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was greeted with outrage by Valdo Spini, chairman of the parliamenta-



Captain Ashby arrives at court to hear the verdict

ry defence committee, who said: "The blood froze in my veins when I heard it."

Italian authorities had wanted the four-man crew of the

Prowler jet to be tried in Italy, but the Pentagon whisked them out of the country, citing America's right to hold any trial in the US under Nato treaty provisions.

Signor Spini said that the London Convention, under which servicemen have the right to be tried in their own countries, needed to be revised "otherwise this is the kind of verdict which we will get".

He said that the families of the victims and the MPs who represented them would continue to search for the truth. "Someone must be to blame, and if it is not the US crew, then who is it?" he asked.

The court-martial prosecution accused Captain Ashby of "flat-batting" — aviation slang for reckless flying — during the 42-minute training flight. They said he violated the mission's speed limit of 517 mph and the altitude restriction of 2,000ft. The jet, travelling at 621 mph, cut the cable 370ft above the valley floor.

But in an embarrassing admission, the prosecution agreed that the ski lift was not shown on maps issued to Captain Ashby and his crew. The defence argued that even a

highly experienced pilot could not have missed hitting the cables after veering the plane suddenly into the ski area. Expert testimony showed that an optical illusion caused by the mountain terrain could have made him think he was flying higher than he really was.

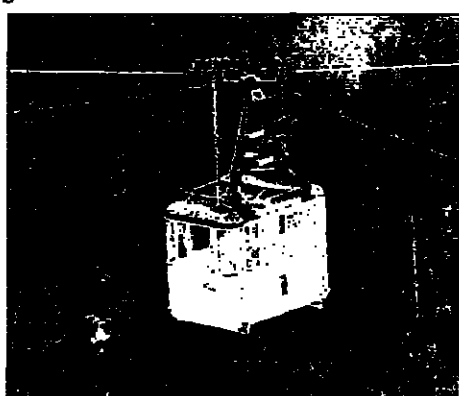
Mauro Gilmozzi, the Mayor of Cavalese, the mountain resort where the disaster occurred, said he was appalled. "This is a profound injustice, an affront to common sense and an insult to the families of those who died," he said.

"There is no doubt in any of our minds that the US pilots were to blame. Their recklessness caused the deaths. They were flying criminally low. We had warned time after time that an accident was going to happen because of these low flights through the valley."

The skiers who died were from Italy, Germany, Belgium, Austria and The Netherlands. Lawyers for their families are seeking damages from the US Government. The Cavalese cable car recently resumed working, and the resort has tried to put the deaths behind it in the current skiing season.



The scene of devastation left by the cable-car disaster, above, damage suffered by the Prowler jet, below left, and the matching gondola that survived the accident, below



## DiCaprio in \$45m suit over fist fight

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE *Titanic* star Leonardo DiCaprio has been served with a \$45 million (£27 million) lawsuit by a screenwriter who claims the actor incited a friend to hit him in a row over his girlfriend, the actress Elizabeth Berkley.

Roger Wilson, also an actor who used to sing on Broadway and fronted his own rock band, says he had to abandon his singing career after he was punched in the throat outside a Manhattan restaurant by one of Mr DiCaprio's friends. He alleges that the star instigated the attack by shouting: "We'll go kick his arse." A lawyer for Mr DiCaprio rejected the allegations as "absolutely false".

The jealous quarrel began when Mr DiCaprio met Miss Berkley, who played a stripper in *Showgirls*, at the premiere of his film *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Through intermediaries, he tried to invite her to dinner but was rebuffed. Two days later Mr Wilson went to the Manhattan restaurant to tell the actor to lay off. Mr Wilson was allegedly surrounded by eight members of Mr DiCaprio's entourage and he was punched. Mr DiCaprio was later seen sporting a black eye. The suit also names others in the DiCaprio party.

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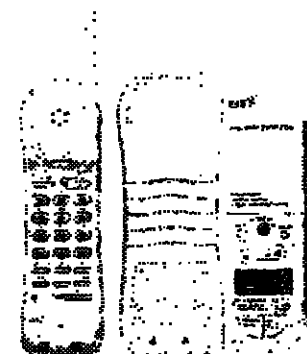
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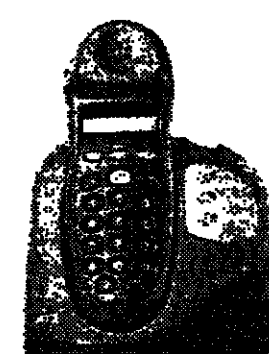
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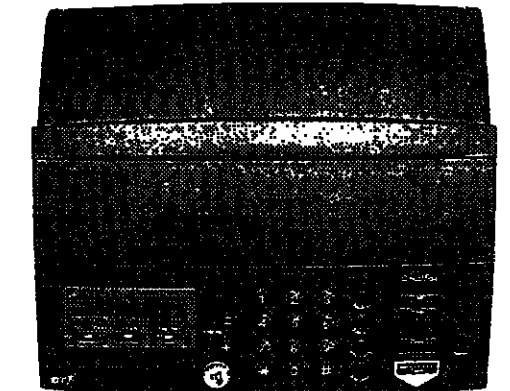
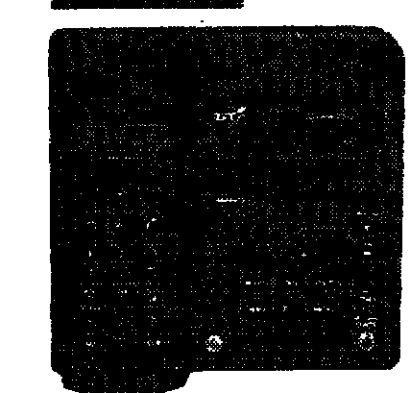


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# Iraq sets deadly missile ambush for allied pilots

Saddam's jets trying to lure no-fly zone patrols over hidden Sam and rocket sites, writes Michael Evans

IRAQI fighter pilots are trying to lure British and American aircraft over hidden surface-to-air missile sites as part of the daily confrontations now taking place over northern and southern Iraq, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Robertson highlighted the dangers which confronted the British and American pilots, as both London and Washington faced condemnation from Iraq, China and Russia for waging what has been called an "undeclared war" on Baghdad.

Since Operation Desert Fox in December, when American and British forces struck at Iraqi military targets over four days, every infringement by Iraqi aircraft in the no-fly zones and every attempt by Baghdad to shoot down patrolling coalition jets has been met with instant retaliation.

Yesterday Mr Robertson disclosed that in the past 11 weeks there had been 100 incursions into the no-fly zones by 150 Iraqi aircraft.

One of the aims of the Iraqi pilots, Mr Robertson said, was to try to draw British and American aircraft towards Sam missile sites as they turned round and headed off the no-fly zones.

He told *The Times*: "Saddam has moved a lot of Sam missile and anti-aircraft artillery batteries into southern and northern Iraq and the Ira-



Robertson: "Iraqis made 100 incursions in 11 weeks"

qi pilots are trying to lure our pilots into missile ambushes." Particularly in the north, the Iraqis have also installed huge Russian-made BM21 multiple rocket-launchers which were designed for surface-to-surface strikes. However, the Iraqis have been using them for anti-aircraft fire. Each one is capable of firing 40 210mm rockets in 20-second "ripples" over a range of about 12 miles.

Defence sources said that one of the results was that lethal rockets were coming down again and "hitting Saddam's own people".

Britain and the United States have denied that there is any secret war, insisting that every attack on Iraqi air defence sites and command and control facilities since

Desert Fox has been a response to provocation.

Speaking on the BBC Radio's *Today* programme, Mr Robertson said: "Saddam and the regime are trying to kill our pilots, and there have been 50 attempts and 50 threatening attempts on our pilots in the last 11 weeks."

With Baghdad engaged in a strategy of provocation, American and British aircraft have now attacked more air defence sites than during the four-day bombings of Operation Desert Fox.

To meet the increasing threat from Iraqi missile batteries, the rules of engagement have been changed to allow more flexibility in the choice of target, with the result that command and control and communications centres have also been hit. Mr Robertson announced the change in the Commons yesterday.

He also defended the American attack on an Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey a few days ago. He said communications facilities had been targeted, but part of the pipeline was also located in the area.

Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, claimed in a letter to the president of the United Nations Security Council that the Americans were trying to destroy Iraq's oil export capacity as part of a plan to destabilise the Baghdad regime.

China yesterday condemned the raids by the Americans and British, accusing them of increasing tensions. Turkey, which expressed concern about the damage to the pipeline, also urged all sides to end the stand-off.

In the largest strike since the renewed confrontations began, American F15s dropped more than 30 2,000lb and 500lb laser-guided bombs on Iraqi communications sites, radio relay stations and anti-aircraft artillery facilities.

Even more significant in terms of power politics was the naming of a new chief of the royal court, traditionally the power behind the throne in the



Abdul-Raouf Rawabdeh, a confidant of King Hussein and now to be Prime Minister

## Hussein's ally returns in new King's shake-up

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
MIDDLE EAST  
CORRESPONDENT

JORDAN'S untied new ruler, King Abdullah II, yesterday moved to stamp his mark on the running of the strategic desert kingdom with a number of key new appointments, including a Prime Minister and a chief of the royal court.

Diplomats in Amman said that the appointments, announced before the end of the official 40-day mourning period for King Hussein, showed that the new monarch was determined to promote those loyal to the late King and to himself, rather than officials regarded as in the camp of the recently deposed Crown Prince, his uncle, Hassan bin Talal.

In the shake-up, the Prime Minister appointed while Hassan was regent last August during the late King's illness, Faysal Tarawneh, was replaced by 60-year-old Abdul-Raouf Rawabdeh, a long-time proponent of King Hussein's liberal outlook, an experienced administrator and supporter of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Even more significant in terms of power politics was the naming of a new chief of the royal court, traditionally the power behind the throne in the



King Abdullah, left, with Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti

Jordanian hierarchy and of particular importance because of the 37-year-old King's youth and inexperience of world diplomacy and domestic politics.

The man appointed is the former Prime Minister, Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti, known as a close confidant of the late King's widow, Queen Noor, an enemy of Hassan and a politician whose 1996-97 Government was renowned both for its criticism of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and its determination to press economic

reforms in the face of public protests.

Clashes with Prince Hassan were one reason for Mr Kabarti's dismissal as Prime Minister, but at the time senior Jordanians predicted that, should Prince Hassan ever be bypassed, he would make a comeback.

Prince Hanzah, King Hussein's eldest son by the American-born Queen Noor, was named as heir in King Abdullah's first decree — as requested by the late King.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Cook heads for Primakov talks

Moscow: On the last leg of his three-day trip to Russia, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, sets off today for the Black Sea resort of Sochi, accompanied by Igor Ivanov, his Russian counterpart, for a meeting with Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, who interrupted his holiday for the talks (Anna Blundy writes). They are expected to discuss Russia's chances of receiving another much-needed instalment of IMF money and co-operation in Kosovo. Despite potential tension over Kosovo — Mr Cook said that he was confident Russia would be "an honoured partner" in any post-ceasefire implementation force — the Foreign Secretary's visit has been characterised by the vocabulary of friendship and "unity of intent".

## Execution 'barbaric'

Bonn: Germany condemned Arizona's gas chamber execution of a German-born convicted murderer as barbaric and criticised America for ignoring international treaties. Herta and Paul Amirson, the Justice Minister, said she believed the execution of convicts like Walter LaGrand, 37, executed on Wednesday for killing a bank manager in 1982, was used to help US governors to win re-election. "It is barbaric and unworthy of a state based on the rule of law," she said. (Reuters)

## China moves millions

Shanghai: China will move another two million people in a new wave of relocations to clear the way for the giant Three Gorges Dam along the Yangtze River, the state-owned news agency Xinhua reported. The first stage involving some 1.3 million people began last year and is still under way. There have been claims that corrupt officials have failed to distribute relocation funds. The dam, due for completion in 2009, will create a 350-mile-long lake. (AP)

## War crime trial halted

Zagreb: Croatia's first war crimes trial relating to the Second World War was adjourned shortly after it opened yesterday when the defendant, a former concentration camp commander, Dinko Sakic, 77, right, was declared unfit to stand trial.

Doctors told the court that the blood flow in Mr Sakic's brain was obstructed and his condition was unstable. The trial will resume on March 15. (Reuters)

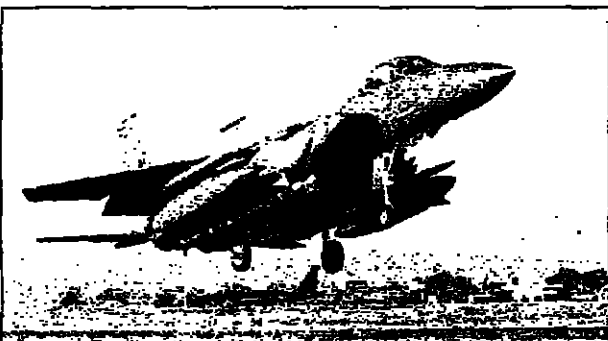


## Afghan foes to meet

Islamabad: Afghanistan's Taliban militia and its opponents have agreed to hold peace talks next week in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations special envoy, said. He urged the Afghan rivals to go to the talks with "a spirit of compromise and understanding, patience and a constructive approach". (Reuters)

## Ming treasure found

A treasure trove of Ming Dynasty porcelain, jade and gold has been recovered after a three-month operation off the coast of Brunei (David Watts writes). The operation, using mini-sub and guarded by the Brunei Navy, yielded three or four boxes of treasure each day. There has so far been no word of the treasure coming on the market.



An F15E taking off from Turkey on a regular patrol

Simon Jenkins, page 22

## Anwar lawyer wants police chief charged

By DAVID WATTS

THE Anwar Ibrahim defence team raised the stakes at the Malaysian inquiry into his beating yesterday by demanding that the former police chief who assaulted him be charged with attempted murder.

Noting that the police officer had "gone berserk", Karpal Singh, counsel for Mr Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister

and Finance Minister, told the royal commission: "If not for the intervention of the two officers [who pulled him off Mr Anwar] he may have gone to the extent of murder. Anwar was only a breath away from becoming Prime Minister. He may still be. But that is a different matter. I would recommend a charge of attempted murder on the part of [police chief] Tan Sri Rahim Noor."

The government forensic science expert who gave evidence at the inquiry last week has made clear that the blows Mr Anwar suffered could have been fatal. Mr Noor's counsel said there was no basis for a charge of attempted murder.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Mr Anwar's wife, said yesterday that police had interrogated her in her home over her appearance at a weekend opposition rally.

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# Reformers set for big triumph in Iran's local polls

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

REFORMERS supporting President Khatami of Iran, including many women, appear set for a stunning victory in the Islamic Republic's first local elections, which have highlighted the waning influence of his hardline opponents. Moderates look certain to capture 13 of the 15 council seats in the capital, Tehran.

"This is a turning point for Iran," said Sadegh Samii, a British-educated publisher. The conservatives, who still control most centres of power, would have "to obey the people's choice", he added.

That remains to be seen, however. Despite his huge popular mandate, Mr Khatami's opponents have so far succeeded in slowing down the pace of his reforms and can be relied on to contest bitterly the erosion of their power.

Rubbing salt into the hardliners' wounds was the prominence of leading progressive candidates. The Tehran vote was headed by Abdullah Nouri, a key Khatami supporter and former Interior Minister who was impeached by the conservative-dominated parliament last year because of his support for greater social, political and cultural freedom. He is now well placed to take up the influential post as the Mayor of Tehran.

Hardliners even failed to take control of the holy city of Mashhad, a traditionally conservative bastion where reformists and independents were leading the vote.

The landmark election was about far more than filling seats on village, town and city councils. It was introduced by Mr Khatami to boost democracy as a grass-roots level and decentralise power that has been mainly in the hands of the clerical establishment since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Victory for the reformers will give them a strong power base from which to challenge the conservatives' hold on parliament in elections next year.

"This has set a precedent. People simply won't put up with hardliners attempting to vet moderate candidates as they have in the past," said a European diplomat.

A conservative screening body had attempted to block Mr Nouri and other prominent reformers from standing in last Friday's polls, but was overruled by the President.

The results, due to be finalised in the next few days, should also boost the role of women in Iranian society and politics. They led the polls in at least 20 cities, even though they made up just 5,000 of the 300,000 hopefuls contesting some 200,000 seats across the country.

Khatami, the President's 61-year-old sister, was the winner in the desert town of Ardekan, capturing nearly three times as many votes as the next candidate.

Third placed in Tehran, the most strongly contested city, was Jamileh Kadivar, a former adviser to Mr Khatami and the wife of the popular Culture Minister, Ayatollah Mohajerani, another *bête noire* of the old guard.

Proof of the determination of Mr Khatami's opponents to demonstrate their authority came just hours after the polls opened when they struck back by jailing Mohsen Kadivar, a leading liberal cleric close to the President.

His arrest on charges of slander and subversion caused uproar among reformists and led to street protests in his native town of Shiraz in the south of the country.



Khatami: his hardline foes will fight on bitterly

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Heroes of Iran's Islamic revolution are familiar symbols on the streets of Tehran

# British car's Tehran twin rules the road

Iran relies on its Hillman Hunter, writes Michael Theodoulou in Tehran

For Westerners, Ayatollah Khomeini's steepled silhouette is the most enduring symbol of the 20-year-old Islamic revolution, but for Tehran's motorists equally durable is the Paykan — a locally produced identical twin of Britain's long-forgotten Hillman Hunter.

Seven out of ten cars on the congested streets of the Iranian capital are Paykans, while once popular Chevrolets, Pontiacs and other chrome-bumpered hulks of Midwestern American steel have long gone the way of the Shah.

The Paykan's horse and carriage emblem is as immediately recognisable in Iran as the silver lady of a Rolls-Royce in Britain. There the comparison ends the Paykan is to Iranians what the Trabant was to the East Germans, a basic but affordable means of transport.

Beige and cream appear the most exciting colours on offer, while working seatbelts are regarded as an unnecessary luxury by Tehran's steely-nerved taxi drivers. Paykan owners have a love-hate relationship with their cars: sometimes they accuse them of being outdated and uneconomical, but all are fiercely proud of the plucky vehicle whose character more than compensates for a lack of sex appeal. "I'll tell you why I prefer my Paykan to a Chevrolet," said Ali Reza, a bearded cabbie whose years negotiating Tehran's chaotic streets have left him looking as grizzled as his 15-year-old Paykan is battered. "You can't get spare parts for a Chevrolet. But you can go to the smallest village in the middle of nowhere and a mechanic will know how to fix a Paykan."

Certainly the Paykan — it means "arrow" in Persian — is something of a success story for Iranian industry, which has worked hard to achieve self-sufficiency in the face of years of international isolation. "The one who has God with him is never alone," reads a sign in an assembly plant west of Tehran that produced 10,000 cars last year. Some, less charitably, attribute the Paykan's success to

a virtual ban on car imports that protects local production and conserves foreign currency. The locally assembled Peugeot 405s are snazzier, but three times the price.

Iran's state-owned Khodro Company began assembling the Paykan in 1967 from kits supplied by Hillman's parent company in Britain, the long defunct Rootes Motor Company, later taken over by Chrysler UK. When that, in turn, was absorbed by Peugeot in 1989, Iran bought the British company's equipment and began producing the Paykan virtually on its own.

The car was due to be replaced by a more advanced model in 1978, but the Islamic revolution, which marked its 20th anniversary this week, gave it a new lease of life as international investment for joint ventures dried up.

However, the winds of change have caught up with the Paykan. It is to be phased out of production gradually as a more powerful and aerodynamic model comes on to the market in the next 18 months. Yet with two million devoted owners, the old Paykan will be seen on streets here well into the new millennium.

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BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT,  
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A map of the Lake George area in Uganda. The map shows the lake and surrounding land. Locations marked include Butogola, Butoma, Bahinja, Numba, Kabale, Kisoro, and the Swindell national park. A box labeled 'Tourist camp' is located near Butoma. The map also shows the borders of Congo to the west and Rwanda to the south. A scale bar indicates 5 miles. An inset map of Africa shows the location of Uganda.

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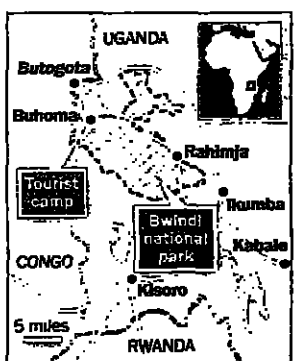
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Ugandan troops, top, on patrol near Bushong tourist camp in the Bwindi National Park, also known as the Impenetrable Forest. Yesterday the three tourists, competing in a stage in a scheduled valley crossing, in thick fog, still showed the signs of Monday's attack by Rwandan rebels. Among the blackened wrecks of four vehicles were scattered belongings and pieces of paper, including: 'Wolverhampton Wanderers' fixture list, above, and scorched travel literature, left.

**Photographs: Richard Pohl**



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## UGANDA MASSACRE

## Husband grieves for wife who loved travel

By RICHARD DUCE AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A SURVIVOR of the tourist massacre in Uganda arrived home yesterday to help to make funeral plans for his murdered wife.

Mark Avis and his wife, Rhonda, had planned to start a new life and family in New Zealand after returning to their home in Kent from their jungle trek. Instead, the bank worker will now start preparations to accompany the body of his childhood sweetheart to Auckland for a funeral service in her home town.

The body of Mrs Avis, 27, is expected to arrive at Gatwick Airport direct from Entebbe tomorrow, along with the coffins of the four murdered Britons. Her body will then be flown to New Zealand.

A cousin of Mr Avis, 28, who has dual British and New Zealand citizenship, flew to Uganda after Monday's massacre. They returned on a flight from Nairobi to Gatwick.

Mr Avis was still too distressed to talk about the death of his wife, murdered by Hutu rebels from Rwanda while visiting the mountain gorillas in their rainforest habitat in Uganda during their two-month holiday in East Africa.

The couple had travelled extensively and the African holiday was to be a last, lengthy adventure before starting a family. Mrs Avis, a travel consultant, had told neighbours in Swanley, Kent, that the couple were eager to have children but had put off starting a family because of the many injections she needed to have for the trip to Africa. The two met as 16-year-olds at a Baptist



Mark Avis with his wife, Rhonda, who was murdered

church meeting in the Auckland suburb of Milford and had been married for seven years. They moved to England two years ago.

Mr Avis's parents, John and Sue, live in New Zealand. The Avises, along with the parents of Rhonda, are too upset to talk about the tragedy. A family friend said her parents were "grieving. Rhonda was a warm, selfless and caring per-

son with a passion for travel. When her mum asked her recently if she was sick of travelling, she replied "Never."

Joanne Cotton, the British tour guide who was among the Britons killed, also had a passion for travel. She had been working for Acacia Expeditions, which specialises in adventure holidays, for nine months.

Her parents, Roger and

Irene Cotton, said yesterday that their grief had been eased by recollections of a recent family holiday in Zimbabwe, where Miss Cotton was based as a travel representative.

Speaking at their family home, Mr Cotton said: "We are deeply shocked by the tragic death of our daughter, Joanne. We take comfort that we recently spent two weeks with her in Zimbabwe, which we all agreed afterwards was the best family holiday we had ever had. Our abiding memory of her is one of living life to the full and thoroughly enjoying her profession."

Miss Cotton, 28, is believed to have gone to Africa, where she drove travellers to tourist sites such as Nairobi, Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Bwindi National Park, where the killings happened, after leaving the army.

Miss Cotton, who has a younger brother, was brought up in the village of Nazing in Essex and attended Nazing County Primary School. At 11 she moved to Sherdes School two miles away in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

When her family moved to Australia in 1984, Miss Cotton went with them, but she returned to England the following year to live with her grandmother and joined her friends back at the comprehensive school. A keen photographer, she left school at 16 with seven CSEs to study graphics at Ware College, Hertfordshire.

Libby Mountford, a senior teacher at Sherdes School, said yesterday: "Joanne was a lively confident, outgoing girl who always had a smile and liked to chat. She was extrovert and friendly."

## Missing Briton's family fears worst

By ADRIAN LEE AND ELIZABETH JUDGE

THE family of a Briton kidnapped eight months ago on a gorilla-watching holiday in Central Africa said yesterday that they feared he was dead.

Douglas Kear, 66, was last seen in August when he was marched away at gunpoint from an area, which, although in the Congo, is near the Bwindi National Park in Uganda, where eight tourists were massacred on Monday.

His family members said that they had not given up hope but feared the worst. Relatives said other tourists travelling in the area after his abduction should have

been given stronger warnings by the Foreign Office.

Mr Kear and a Swedish couple are believed to have been seized by Rwandan Hutu rebels, also blamed for the latest deaths. His brother, Alec, 64, from Lydney, Gloucestershire, said: "They were taken off into the jungle and we have heard nothing since." He said the family had been told by the Foreign Office to say nothing.

The missing Briton, who also holds a New Zealand passport and has lived there since 1971, was on a three-week tour. The party was ambushed in the Virunga National Park. Mr Kear's son

Martin, 39, who lives in New Zealand, said: "There has been guerrilla activity in that region since 1994 and I was not surprised to hear of the kidnappings this week. When I heard of the horrific outcome I was appalled. It seems ridiculous that tours were still going to the same area after Dad went missing."

Mr Kear's family is being supported by Terry Waite, the former Beirut hostage. "He has been a tower of strength to us," Mr Kear's sister-in-law, Averil, said.

The Foreign Office said last night that there was no evidence that Hutus were responsible but that a link with the latest deaths could not be ruled out.

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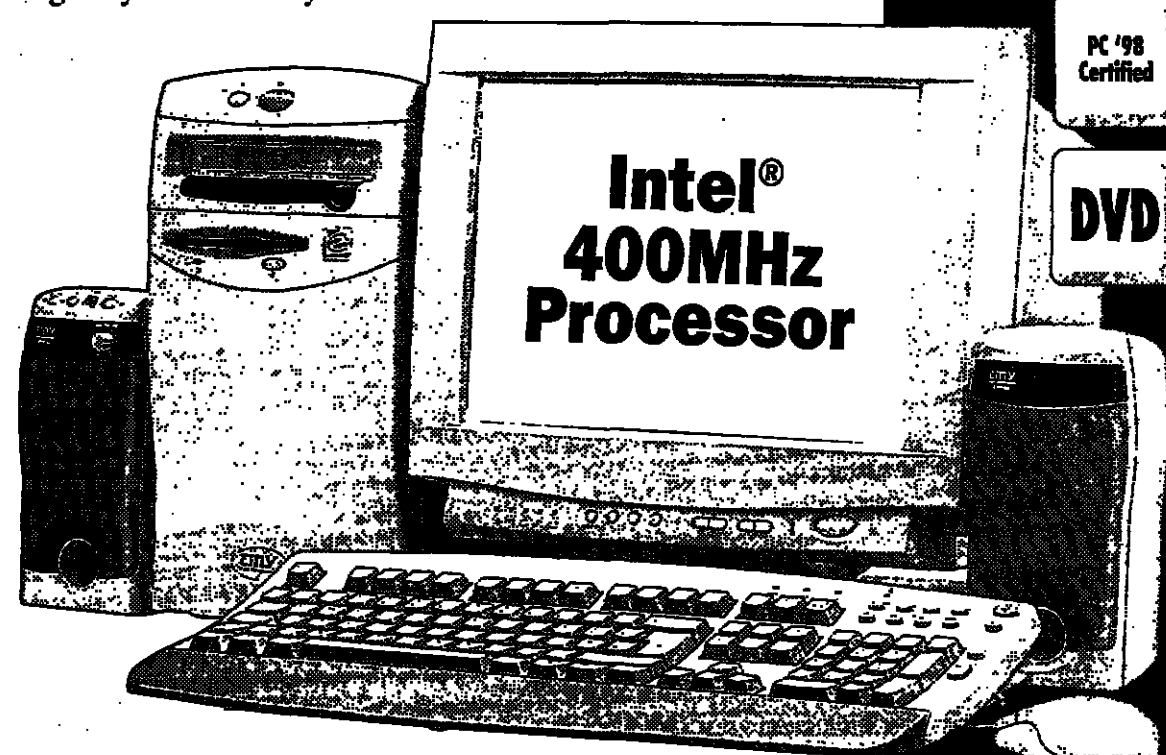
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# Chinese call on leaders to atone for massacre

TEN years after the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, relatives and friends of those killed or injured have petitioned the National People's Congress to apologise for the crackdown.

The defiant challenge to the state security apparatus was timed to coincide with the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament which was preparing to meet today amid tight security.

The ghost of the Tiananmen massacre in Beijing on June 4, 1989, still haunts Chinese leaders even as they ponder widespread unrest and nationwide grumbling over official corruption and millions of job losses in state-run industries.

The 20 petitioners, one of whom is Professor Ding Zelin, whose 17-year-old son was shot dead when the People's Liberation Army crushed the student protest, wrote: "As survivors of that event, we - the injured, disabled and families of those killed - have lived through ten years of torment."

In a telephone interview with *The Times* yesterday, Professor Ding said that her home was surrounded by security men and that she was told to return indoors. She expects she will not be allowed out until the People's Congress session ends in ten days.

## James Pringle reports on a growing public disillusion with Beijing's regime

President Jiang Zemin cracked down on dissent last year with long prison terms for those who set up a political party to challenge the Communist Party monopoly. He has promised to "resolutely nip in the bud" any sign of protest at a time of growing disaffection.

Mr Jiang and his Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, the economics chief, are emphasising social stability, aware that China is afflicted with many of the same problems that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr Zhu is clearly worried that the Asian financial crisis is causing the economy to slow, with falling exports, declining growth in retail sales and, tellingly, slow growth in electricity consumption.

But in spite of this downturn it was predicted that defence spending would rise to record levels to compensate the People's Liberation Army for the loss of its widespread business interests ordered last year.

Diplomats believe that China's leaders are worried about the boldness of opposition to their rule as the party fails to deliver on its compact with the 1.3 billion population, after disastrous policies.

That compact is: "You let us rule, and we will let you prosper." One foreign diplomat here said: "Prosperity and laid-off workers are a contradiction in terms, and the political opposition - small though it is - is showing it cannot be browbeaten by stiff jail terms... The leadership is showing every sign of being afraid of the people."

Few here believe Beijing's claim that the economy grew 7.8 per cent last year, and ordinary Chinese for the first time openly express to foreigners their dismay about the Government and their future.

"There are so many unemployed that the leaders may soon be unemployed," said a mechanical engineer in Kunming, Yunnan, who had been laid off and was driving a taxi.

It is against this backdrop that it is impossible for China's leaders to forget the massacre. Tiananmen Square has been closed for "renovation" and is surrounded by a high blue fence which will not be removed until July, well after the sensitive tenth anniversary of the massacre.



AN INDONESIAN student is arrested by security forces during pitched battles in the streets of Jakarta yesterday, hours before a visit by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. Clashes broke out after about 300 soldiers and police tried to block a

## Jakarta riots mar Albright visit

march by some 2,000 students calling for President Habibie to step down. Student leaders later claimed that dozens of protesters and six photographers and journalists had been in-

jured and 33 students had been arrested after troops waded into the crowd with batons. The demonstration had started in the early afternoon with the students

shouting "Revolution now" as they marched two miles from the Salemba Campus of the University of Indonesia to the centre of Jakarta. The protesters were demanding that a transitional government be installed until elections could be held. (AFP)

## Defeated Khmer Rouge enjoys profits of crime

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PALENG, CAMBODIA

THE surrender of the Khmer Rouge and the swearing of allegiance to the Phnom Penh Government have given the impression that the movement, responsible for killing 1.7 million, is fatally crippled. But analysts in the Cambodian capital fear that there might now be a Khmer Rouge Trojan horse in their midst.

Profiting from gem and logging concessions in their enclave near Thailand, the Khmer Rouge is amassing wealth which it refuses to share with the Government. One analyst said the Khmer Rouge of Pailin has not integrated the autonomous western region with the rest of the country, and has not handed over a single cent from timber or gem revenues. "If their interests are threatened, the reconstituted Khmer Rouge of Pailin could put up a good fight."

The fanatical political movement that regarded using toothbrushes as a capital

crime because of its bourgeois inference is now involved in mafia-style rackets. Brothels, karaoke joints and jungle casinos dot Pailin town.

Even as the worship of Mammon thrives - with the boom of discotheque music replacing the turgid anthems of hate - its rhetoric about defending the motherland remains unchanged. While the guerrilla group does appear to be seriously weakened, it has taken on a different identity, calling itself the Democratic National Union Movement.

Two of its most wanted leaders, former President Khieu Samphan, 67, and Nuon Chea, 71, live in palatial bungalows protected by a minefield. The two who wrote the blueprint for one of the century's most brutal regimes defected in December and the Government is now awaiting a United Nations report on whether there is evidence to try them. But in the interest of peace

that leaders such as King Norodom Sihanouk say the country desperately needs, they were given a tour by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, and allowed to return to Pailin despite calls for their arrests. The Khmer Rouge says any trial must bring to book all those responsible, including America and Vietnam. The underlying threat is that, if only its leaders were targeted, "it would be war again."

"With so many former Khmer Rouge now in the army, in theory it would be possible to seize power," said one observer in Phnom Penh.

But to this correspondent who has covered the brutal war in Cambodia, the best chance for peace is for the rank and file to acquire a taste of the best, and worst, of capitalism. Perhaps, once they have become used to using toothbrushes, it would be difficult to persuade the cadre to take up arms again.

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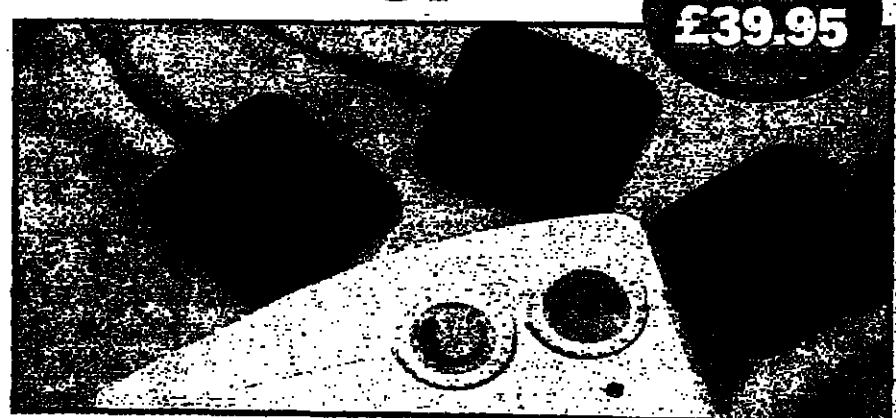
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CHANGING TIMES

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# Germans prepare for 'most dangerous mission since the war'

GERMANY'S Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, gave a warning yesterday that the peacekeeping plan for Kosovo represented "our most dangerous mission since the end of the Second World War".

In an interview with *The Times*, the minister said that the perils would be far greater than in Bosnia and that German troops were being given an extra five weeks of training to prepare themselves. Some 28,000 soldiers are to take

## Bonn Defence Minister tells Roger Boyes about risks of sending troops to Kosovo

part in the multinational Nato-led force.

British troops are already in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the final contingent is likely to comprise 8,400 British and 5,500 German soldiers. The Kosovo deployment marks a historic

breakthrough for Germany. Only after years of debate did it accept the idea of sending ground troops to Bosnia. That German contingent comprised mainly medical, transport and signals staff. Kosovo is different. Heavy armour, including German Leo and British

Challenger tanks, will be moving in. Herr Scharping, who arrives in London on Monday for talks with his counterpart, George Robertson, says that the Nato mission in Kosovo will have three components: to protect the 1,300 unarmed monitors sent by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe; to implement a Kosovo agreement; and to verify and launch operations from the air.

Herr Scharping refuses to define the mission as military intervention but plainly force may be needed at each stage. The agreement will entail the disarming of the Kosovo Liberation Army, protecting disarmed ethnic Albanians and supervising the withdrawal of Serb units. All these activities are potential flashpoints.

The air operations are, in essence, Nato's big stick. The threat of bombardment is the only real source of pressure on President

Milosevic. "The experience of the past ten years is that Milosevic caves in only at the very last moment, so we need credible and intensive pressure," Herr Scharping said. German troops could expect to stay in place "for the duration of an agreement, at least three years".

It is a measure of the changes in Germany that he could speak so openly about deploying troops. Last week he gained parliamentary approval for a Kosovo mission,

while the goal of the operation, which he defines as "avoiding new mountains of corpses and new waves of refugees", seems to be understood by ordinary Germans.

The only protests are likely to come from rank and file Greens, but they have never been so out of tune with the national mood. Germany has turned away from its modern pacifist tradition and its instinct to draw into a shell when called upon to act.

# Chirac's family falls out over women MPs

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Chirac received an unusual and embarrassing put-down yesterday when his wife, Bernadette, publicly contradicted him over plans to feminise the French parliament.

In an interview, the famously long-suffering Mme Chirac broke her traditional silence to oppose a government-sponsored proposal to impose quotas for women MPs. Her comments also amounted to an attack on her daughter, Claude — M Chirac's closest political adviser — and on the Prime Minister's wife, Sylviane Agacinski, the brains behind the project. It was Mme Agacinski who convinced her Socialist husband, Lionel Jospin, to promote the so-called parity legislation. And it was

Mme Chirac who persuaded her centre-right father that he too had to support the project. But the President's wife told *Le Figaro* yesterday: "I cannot accept the idea." Mme Chirac rubbed salt into the head of state's wounds by describing him as a macho man with "a certain taste for provoking" women.

The implication is that his backing is a hypocritical manoeuvre to improve his standing with younger voters.

The interview was all the more surprising since Mme Chirac has portrayed herself as a loyal housewife who looks after her husband and "has a strict duty" to avoid public pronouncements. But it may signal the start of a political offensive from a woman whose de-

more public persona is far removed from the reality.

Mme Chirac is a councillor in the Corrèze region and yesterday she told the newspaper: "I have not abandoned hope of holding other positions." Her criticism of the legislation may be a thorn in the presidential side, but it is an astute personal career move that will win her support among the centre-right electorate.

Many conservative voters are appalled at the Bill to promote "the equal access of men and women to public office". Although just 59 of France's 577 MPs are women, one of the lowest percentages in Europe, rightwingers want to encourage, rather than impose, change.

They say the Government's legislation will reduce voter choice. This view is backed by followers of the feminist icon, Simone de Beauvoir, who fear women MPs will become a category apart selected for their gender and not their talents. But Mme Agacinski believes legislation is the only means of reforming France's notoriously macho public life. Her husband and his left-wing Cabinet seem to have been given little choice except to agree.

If M Chirac had listened to his instincts, he would have blocked the parity Bill. But he listened to his daughter, who told him he would appear old-fashioned unless he threw his weight behind it.



Claude Chirac, left, the President's daughter, and her mother, Bernadette, who are at odds on reform plans



Dumas allegedly took gifts paid for by Elf

## Ex-lover accuses Dumas in Elf affair

BY ADAM SAGE

ROLAND DUMAS, France's highest judge and former Foreign Minister, was yesterday dropped in a legal minefield by his ex-mistress in connection with an inquiry into alleged bribery at the heart of French public life.

Christine Deviers-Joncour told a judge she had bought M Dumas 12 Ancient Greek statues worth a total of Fr264,000 (£27,500) with money supplied by Elf-Aquitaine, the oil company. Her claim that M Dumas knew the origin of the funds places him at the centre of allegations that Elf tried to buy government decisions in its favour.

In an interview published in *Paris-Match* yesterday, Mme Deviers-Joncour made plain her intention to abandon the president of the French Supreme Court to his own fate. Having shielded M Dumas for two years, she now accuses him of lying.

French justice has been



Christine Deviers-Joncour claims her former lover is lying to the Elf inquiry

looking into claims that Elf gave millions of francs to Mme Deviers-Joncour in the hope she would influence M Dumas, with whom she had an affair in the early 1990s.

At one stage Mme Deviers-Joncour said the former Foreign Minister had greatly admired the Greek statues that were on show on the day before an important auction in 1990.

On the morning of the sale, Alfred Sirven, a director of

But the inquiry was floundering, with no proof that the late President Mitterrand's Foreign Minister knew Elf was funding his mistress.

Until now, yesterday Mme Deviers-Joncour said the former Foreign Minister had greatly admired the Greek statues that were on show on the day before an important auction in 1990.

On the morning of the sale, Alfred Sirven, a director of

Elf, arrived at her house with an envelope containing Fr300,000, she claimed. "Buy what you want with this money and surprise him," said M Sirven, according to Mme Deviers-Joncour. She said M Dumas knew of M Sirven's visit and cash payment.

Yesterday M Dumas's lawyers acknowledged he received the gifts, but denied that he was aware of who paid for them.

## Germany gives way on farm reform

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

HOPES for settlement in the European Union's quarrel over spending reform rose yesterday when Germany bowed to a central French demand on financing of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

French ministers claimed victory when German officials conceded that they saw no point in continuing to press Paris to take responsibility for paying directly a share of the billions of pounds of annual EU subsidies which go to its farmers.

France's refusal to accept the German and British-backed scheme for so-called "co-financing" of the £30 billion CAP has been a central sticking-point in the attempt to produce a new six-year budget package for the whole Union. EU leaders face a March 25 deadline for settling the package. The German climbdown cleared the air for farm ministers as they began their latest attempt to revamp the CAP in Brussels last night.

Germany had tabled the co-financing scheme as the best way to achieve its goal of cutting its own £8 billion net contribution to the EU budget. Bonn's surrender to France will help to repair strained relations between the two core states of the EU, but it leaves untouched the key question of how the EU will carve up spending in an overall budget that is due to shrink in real terms. The farm programme, which takes half the budget, is at the heart of the reform effort, followed by regional aid, which consumes a third.

## CHRONICLE of the FUTURE



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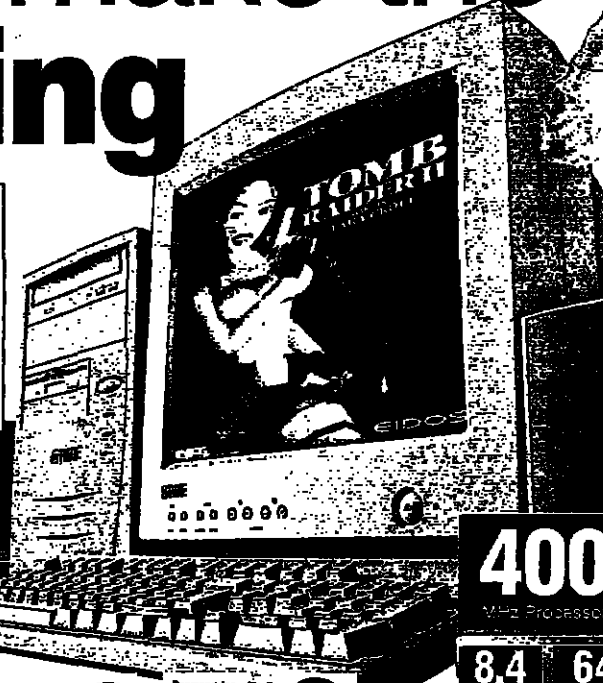
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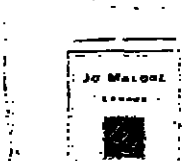


**LAUNDRY DELICATE, £9**  
This hand-wash leaves linen refreshed and smelling divine. The only down side is that you don't get much of it. Tocco, available at Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge (0171-235 5000) 8/10



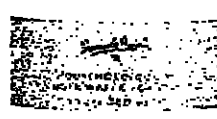
**WHITE LINEN MIST, £19.95**

This has a slightly disconcerting hint of gin when first sprayed on to sheets. But within minutes the aroma changes to the clean scent of freshly mown grass. Expensive though. The Cross, 141 Portland Road W11 (0171-727 6760) 9/10



**LINO NEL VENTO, £26**

Spray before ironing bed linen, curtains and upholstery for a light, refreshing smell of lavender. Unfortunately, the fragrance doesn't last long. Jo Malone, 154 Walton Street SW3 (0171-581 1101) 6/10



**LAUNDRY DELICATE, £9**  
Lovely idea, beautifully presented. The water is used in an iron but the faint perfume fades rapidly once bed linen has cooled. L'Occitane, 237 Regent Street W1, and department stores (0171-290 1421) 4/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRET

# The secret is learning to pull the right strings

Drawstring pants are back. And if you want to avoid looking like a puppet, loosen up and let them hang around your navel

There is a generation of women for whom mention of the word drawstring conjures a host of images, none of them compatible with high fashion. This is, roughly speaking, the generation that was reared on a television diet of Andy Pandy — that strange, androgynous puppet who jerked about dressed in a shapeless Pierrot costume fastened at the neck, wrist and ankle with stiff, drawstring-tied frills. The same generation tends to have been educated at schools where domestic science departments were run by brisk, efficient women whose idea of a proper preparation for married life was a light hand with a Victoria sandwich and the ability to sew a proper casing and run a drawstring through it without getting it all twisted.

I am a veteran of several early skirmishes with drawstring casings, mainly on lengths of gingham in my house colour (bad-egg yellow). On shoe bags, sewing tides and primitive attempts at skirts, the results were always the same: bunched, amateurish and heavily speckled with needle-pricks of blood and tears of rage.

A bit later, it is true, drawstrings did creep over my fashion horizon, as the insecure fastenings of off-the-shoulder blouses in highly flammable cotton voile (I had a lovely one in cherry-coloured embroidered organza), and gypsyish ruffled skirts, decorated with tribal patterns of uncertain ethnic origin. Sooner or later the drawstring would always get caught on something and disappear up its own casing with the speed of a fleeing black mamba, and then you'd have to spend hours fiddling about with a little gold safety pin trying to coax it out again.

Years passed and draw-

strings vanished from my life, reappearing sporadically at the waistband of a delectable pair of lacy-knit babies' leggings, or in the oddly frivolous gathered ankles of soldiers' khakis. But suddenly my new *Vogue* falls open at a Miu Miu nylon skirt and top, gathered in elegant wrinkles on to a wholly delectable leather drawstring. Good gracious. Evidently it is time for me to get out my little gold safety pin again.

I didn't think that it was going to be easy. Drawstrings would be all very well if it were not for all the gathering involved. Bad enough when one is talking about some kind of long, trailing, romantic skirt. But as for drawstring trousers — well, if there is a better way of adding six inches to one's waist and behind, I have not yet discovered it. In fact, the more I think about drawstring trousers, the more rebellious I feel.

Perhaps, like those huge, flat Mary Jane shoes with the strap across the thickest part of the instep, this may have to be one fashion to which I refuse to fall victim.

Then, on my quest for a comfortable and elegant working wardrobe, I found myself trying on, more from a sense of duty than with any enthusiasm, a couple of pairs of drawstring trousers, one in navy canvas by Armani, and another in sand-coloured polyester by Donna Karan, and a kind of conversion took place. My error, it appears, has been to tie the string too tight, lashing it at the waist as though I expected a force nine gale to blow up. Hence the unflattering bunching effect fore and aft.

Now, said the sympathetic clothes consultant who had taken me in hand, if I were to loosen the string a little, so that the waistline fell in a gentle curve just below navel level, I would see a startling improvement. She was right. My Donna Karan strides, which — as I had been wearing them — suggested an unfortunate misalliance between Field Marshal Montgomery and Mrs Arabella Bloomer, slunk down towards my hipbones. Worn with Warehouse's shoulder-buttoned khaki rib T-shirt with a little buttoned pocket on the upper arm, the effect was of a sexy deserter from some hitherto unknown female offshoot of the French Foreign Legion.

You can guess the rest. The spectre of Andy Pandy has been banished and I simply can't understand how I put up for so long with the tight, unyielding denim waistband of my jeans cutting into my tender midriff. I am probably too mean to buy drawstrings from Armani or Prada, but there are plenty of alternatives. At French Connection there is a good version of the military Donna Karan look, in sand or black cotton with reinforced knees, Velcro-fastening pockets and ties at waist and ankle. A techno style in sheeny charcoal cotton and nylon with leg pockets and a stitched front seam is £70; soft, draping rayon and viscose pants in black,



Strings attached: "How did I put up with unyielding denim waistbands for so long?"

white or sky blue are £45; plain linen wide-leg pants are £65 (a matching drawstring jacket with a pouch pocket is £110); and, for the urban peasant, French Connection has wide pants with a button fly and a drawstring waist in an extraordinary, but quite attractive, sort of gold-brown sacking for £45.

At Laura Ashley, for a long time the home of the supreme-

ly unflattering trouser, there are some admirably plain, rather Frenchified slate linen-mix drawstring pants for £45 (avoid at all costs the print version, which would infallibly turn anyone, however slender, into an elephant). A matching unlined jacket, like a French workman's jacket, is £60.

Warehouse has a brace of classic drawstring pants — in charcoal viscose jersey for £35,

or black polyamide (£45). Khaki cotton drawstring fatigues are £38. And at Warehouse, Andy Pandy's rebellious teenage offspring can find acres of drawstring pants at pocket-money prices, of which the most striking are probably the cropped fatigues, £28, and the polyester-mix pants in pale grey, black or air-force blue, with toggle ties at ankle and waist.

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Simple white china daubed with metallic stripes belong in an urban steel and chrome kitchen. Platinum particles in the paint make the stripes catch the light. Jazz cup and saucer, £18.50, and mug, £16, by Lisa International (01932-789 721)

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MAN  
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JOE JOSEPH

## Bring on the rivals, I'm fighting for a spoil

Jack Straw, Robin Cook, Frank Dobson, Alastair Campbell — these are some of the truly inspiring names of our age. Names that have the power to spur all of us to reassess our lives and to wonder if maybe it isn't time to emigrate.

But what is it that makes them so inspiring? It's their ersatz quality. They're not the Real McCoy. They are the political world's version of the newspaper spoiler.

Spoilers are a newspaper's way of stealing a rival's clothes when it fears its own wardrobe might look wanting. For example, this week, to tarnish *The Mirror's* scoop serialisation of Andrew Morton's new book on Monica Lewinsky, its rivals have done nothing to discourage their readers from believing that it is they who have secured Lewinsky's story.

On Wednesday *The Sun's* front

page carried a picture of Lewinsky next to the promise: "We've got the FIRST interview." *The Mirror*, which began its serialisation only yesterday, has been so anxious that it has been running anti-spoiler spoilers of its own all week, with front covers suggesting that its inside pages contained extracts from Morton's book when, in fact, they contained only articles about the background to the book.

In a similar saga last week, *The Daily Telegraph* published extracts from Germaine Greer's sequel to *The Female Eunuch*, which revealed that after 30 years of campaigning for feminist ideals, Greer is, astonishingly, still a woman. But *Daily Mail* readers must have been baffled by the *Telegraph's* crowing about its exclusives, because their own paper was telling them how "In the first of a compelling new series today we reveal the sexual

forces that shaped one of the century's most extraordinary thinkers." What the *Daily Mail* was in fact publishing were extracts from an old, unauthorised biography of Greer by Christine Wallace.

But whereas newspaper spoilers are criticised outside Fleet Street by people who think that they tell you everything you need to know about the jackdaw morality of journalists, the human political spoiler is actually running the country.

The human political spoiler gets to sit at Tony Blair's Cabinet table. He's given a Whitehall ministry to run; civil servants who will take the blame when their boss should have read an important report but didn't, and flights on Concorde. When it comes to running spoilers, politicians are the experts.

New Labour, we can now see, was nothing more than a spoiler designed to imitate the Tories and

thereby seduce voters into switching allegiance. Tony Blair has diligently stolen every idea the Tories had, a task obviously made easier by the fact that the Tories didn't have many. As far as the Thatcherite creed of "One of Us" goes, Blair is more royalist than the king.

Having bagged the last election, Blair continues to deploy spoiler tactics. Worried that a more electable Tory might unseat William Hague as Tory leader, Blair has activated a spoiling campaign by appointing Hague's likely rivals to run task forces, thus tainting them as new Labour sympathisers.

Chris Patten has been co-opted to review the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Michael Heseltine is helping the Government to promote Anglo-Chinese trade. Lord Wakeham, the former Conservative leader in

the Lords, is to supervise a Royal Commission into the future of the Upper House.

The spoiler that makes new Labour gingle is, of course, Kenneth Clarke (Blair: "Why isn't Ken in our Cabinet?"). Campbell: "He's a Tory, but Hague says he'll kick him out if he backs pro-single currency rebels in this summer's Euro-elections." Blair: "Super! Then we can make him Deputy PM".

Most of new Labour's First XI are human political spoilers, too. Robin Cook successfully makes even emptier threats to despoil the world's troublespots than did his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. Jack Straw — mimicking the Tories' Home Secretary Michael Howard — is also a smart, often eloquent politician who has a knack of coming across as a complete plonker. At Health, Frank Dobson seeks the

world alight just as dimly as Stephen Dorrell did before him. At the Department of Trade, Blair has found a perfect spoiler for the unmemorable Ian Lang in the forgettable Stephen Byers.

Spoiling is everywhere. High street clothes shops do it by copying designer's frocks while they are still on the catwalks in Milan and Paris and getting them into the shops almost overnight. I had planned to write today about the euro. Then I learnt that a columnist on a rival newspaper was going to write about spoilers. So my journalistic instinct told me that it was professional duty to spoil his column about spoilers.

If, by some unfortunate chance, you should read another article in another newspaper today that shamelessly sets out to spoil my spoiler about spoilers, don't tell me. I'll spoil my whole day.

## I have discovered a lifetime of betrayal by my husband of 32 years

Lynn Redgrave is in crisis. In an interview with Janie Lawrence she tells for the first time why she is divorcing her husband

We have been talking for 35 minutes before it becomes apparent that all is not well with Lynn Redgrave. Until this point she has given a bravura performance perfectly befitting one of our most accomplished actresses; poised, soignée, and recounting anecdotes with considerable brio.

I am the last in a series of journalists interviewing her about her new (and very fine) film, *Gods and Monsters*, for which she has been nominated for an Oscar. And if she doesn't win one for the film, she certainly deserves one for the performance she managed to maintain almost, but not quite, until the end of her grueling publicity schedule on Tuesday afternoon.

The straw that breaks her is my innocent and well-intentioned remark that finally she appears to have it all — professional acclamation, and a marriage to John Clark, the child star of *Just William* which, in the flighty world of Hollywood, has gone on for ever: 32 years, to be precise.

"Yes, it's been a very long one," she replies, in measured tones distinctly lacking in enthusiasm. For a few minutes she continues to talk about her career before volunteering, in an apparent *non sequitur*, that she has been undergoing therapy since December.

"That would normally indicate someone in crisis," I say, puzzled. "As a matter of fact, I am in crisis," she replies. Her voice is steady but her fingers twiddle agitatedly with a nap-

kin. "This has been a very difficult time. In many ways I'm having...". Her face crumples, and she abruptly dissolves into tears.

Even in distress she is dignified. She weeps quietly, silently accepting the tissue I have ferreted for in my bag, and continues for some minutes. Unsure what to say, my immediate thought is that she must be gravely ill; certainly she looks as though she has lost some weight.

Her grief is painful to witness and it is several minutes more before she regains any semblance of composure. "I'm sorry," she gulps. "No, I'm not ill. As of Thanksgiving, I've discovered a lifetime of betrayal from my husband, and I'm divorcing him. You're the first person I've told. I suppose it's because I'm wobbly and tired."

"The first thing that's been revealed to me involves another child who has been in my house all this time, and who I never knew was my husband's child. And now my husband has just spoken to the *National Enquirer*."

She was expecting the story to break next week; instead, the news breaks the day after we meet. And what an extraordinary, and tawdry, tale of betrayal it is. Last November, her husband confessed to her that he had fathered the child of the woman who later married their son, Zachary, the eight-year-old boy Lynn had always thought of as her surrogate grandson, was in fact her husband's child.

He said he had had an affair



In crisis: "People will say hooray for Lynn, but there is a price to pay. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed"

with a woman called Nicolette, and that during the affair she had become pregnant by him. The affair ended and subsequently Nicolette fell in love with, and married, Lynn and John's own son, Ben, who, not knowing who Zachary's real father was, adopted him as his own.

"It was right beneath my

nose for eight years," says Lynn, her voice hollow with the shock of it still. "I thought this child was my surrogate grandchild; that his own father was a 5\*\*\* and never paid attention to him."

It is unlikely that any of this would have become public, were it not for the fact that last year Nicolette filed a restraining

order against Clark, who she alleged was harassing her. By this time her marriage to Ben had broken up, and she was involved with a married plumber. Lynn says that her husband was forced finally to confess to her because of the alleged harassment. Nicolette, in an apparent attempt to stop him, was threatening to

tell Lynn about Zachary. "He's harangued them in the most appalling way and she threatened to tell me if he didn't stop. So he told me, but then he carried on. Because he can't have her, he doesn't want anyone else to have her."

It was Thanksgiving, the traditional day in America for family unity, when her hus-

band turned Lynn's own family inside out. "It's quite, quite horrifying," she says. "I'd just put the turkey in the oven. We had a houseguest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary."

Her immediate reaction, she says, was to feel compassion for Zachary. She recounts the betrayal without anger or rancour: it is as if she is still in such a deep state of shock that she can scarcely believe the words she is uttering. "I'm not bitter. I'm a lot of things, but I don't have time for that. I've been in a terrible state of struggle, and gradually making moves towards taking control of the situation. And with each step I take, as hard as it is, I feel a little clearer."

Many times over the past three months, she has been driving and had to pull over because she simply couldn't see the road. "Quite honestly, I was unable to drive at all on the freeway for a month."

For a long time she was unable to eat, and has lost ten pounds in less than eight weeks. "I've eaten better because I'm away, but it's probably the first time I've eaten

fallers. "And yet...". Her eyes well up again.

One dreadful irony is that her husband is also her manager. Since her performance in *Shine* she has gone from strength to strength; she is marvellous in *Gods and Monsters* and with the Oscars only weeks away, he would, under normal circumstances, be accompanying her. Now she intends to go with her daughters. "The bitter sweetness is that he has been a great champion of my work, and long wanted me to succeed. All that's happened has been to rejoice in, to share in. But how can I? So I can only say: 'Well, I'm still here and I'll go on for my kids.'"

"I suppose what I'm thinking is that the Greek gods who look over us from Mount Olympus are saying: 'Well, we've decided that you've worked very hard as an actor, you've paid your dues and you've lived a good life. People will say, hooray for Lynn, she's back, but there's a price to pay. And this is the price. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed.'"

Unsurprisingly, she has barely given her future any thought. "This has been a mas-

I had just put the turkey in the oven. We had a guest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary

properly in three months."

Her husband has stated that until she filed for divorce on Monday, he had been hoping they would be able to "patch things up". This seems a remarkable comment from a man who has revealed his story to America's most notorious (and high-paying) tabloid. Yet women have forgiven errant husbands, in the most extraordinary of circumstances, before does Lynn share his hope of reconciliation?

"It's too soon for me to say. I can't forgive him and go back to him. There is no way we can be back together." It was her husband's decision to tell all to the *National Enquirer*, she says, that jolted her into filing for divorce. "He didn't dream that I would do it. But once he spoke out, I had to. I didn't want my action to be the result of an article. There's no wavering on my part." She adds, ominously: "This is only the tip of the iceberg. And how huge is this? The rest of it is horrifying."

She won't be drawn further as to what the "rest of it" is. On the basis of what we know so far, it hardly bears contemplating. And, inevitably, one of the most painful elements for her is having to wonder whether her whole married life has been a sham.

"Yes, that's what I have to work through. And to tell myself what I believe is true: that he has loved me. He's loved me very deeply, I think." She

sive chunk of my life, so I have a long way to go before I can put this into perspective. I'm not afraid of being alone. I'm quite good at it. But then I have children and my daughter Kelly is expecting twins, so soon I'll have grandchildren. I've had very much of a wonderful life. Of course, my children have been very affected by all of this."

As for her attitude towards Zachary, she insists nothing will change. "He is the most wonderful child and I truly love him."

When we speak later on the phone, after the news story has broken, she says she is exhausted and keen to gather strength before she begins shooting a new film next week. "I think I am strong but I've been moved at how good my family have been. They've been fantastic. Until this, I've never confided in anyone apart from my husband for the whole of my married life."

She says she has categorically no intention of engaging in a public war of words with her husband, and states that she intends forthwith to maintain a dignified silence. Yet rarely a day goes by when she is not, at some point, overwhelmed by emotion. Her voice trembles. "In many ways my marriage wasn't perfect, but I loved him deeply. My heart rose when I heard his football in the kitchen." Copyright: Janie Lawrence

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# Why Britain will be in the money

We can only benefit from staying away from euroland

Whoever said that newspapers were remote from their readers? I was planning not to write about Europe again this week, but the deluge of e-mails and letters has persuaded me otherwise. It looks as if the position of being pro-European but anti-EMU is one that very many of you share.

So why do critics claim that it is self-contradictory? Colin Sharman, of KPMG, dismissed it as like being "half-pregnant" when New Europe, the organisation with which I am involved, was launched on Monday. Passionate EMU-philes love setting up a false dichotomy: you either have to go with the flow or leave the EU altogether. That's as silly as saying that you can't love football but hate Arsenal.

But at least Mr Sharman will vote "yes" out of real enthusiasm. More worrying are the millions who have grave doubts about joining the euro but fear there is no future for this country outside it. The "yes" campaign will play mercilessly on these fears. I will claim that we "cannot afford" to be "left behind".

So the onus is on opponents of EMU to boost people's confidence that Britain can thrive in the Union outside the eurozone. For we are not a pathetic little country that cannot survive without pooling economic management with the Germans and the French. Far from it.



Mary Ann Sieghart

Britain has the fifth largest economy in the world. It is one of only five permanent members of the UN Security Council and is a leading member of Nato and G7. None of these facts will change, in or out of EMU — except that, if we join, our G7 seat may go to a joint eurozone representative.

Would we lose inward investment if we stayed out? I very much doubt it: we may even gain it. Don't forget that we would remain in the single market. EMU-enthusiasts claim that the eurozone would rig the market against us. Not only would that be illegal, under the Treaty of Rome, it would also be wholly against the eurozone's interests, since we are their biggest trading partner and the balance of trade is in their favour.

Inward investors in Britain would have to hedge their currency exposure to the euro. But, offset against that tiny insurance premium would be the huge benefits of our labour flexibility, low tax and modest social costs, not to mention our language and reputation as a good place to live. A dynamic economy on the fringe of euroland could be a far more attractive site for investment than the often sclerotic and overtaxed countries within the zone. German companies are already moving their factories here. Deutsche Bank has just spent £300 million improving its international headquarters — in London, not Frankfurt.

Of course the pressures to raise our tax and social costs will come whether we join or not. But the chances of resisting them are greater if we remain outside. This is how it will happen. Endless proposals for "harmonisation" will come: each time (I hope)

Britain will either veto or threaten its veto. The other Europeans will be livid and will compare Tony Blair to Margaret Thatcher.

They will suggest (they already have) that the veto be abolished for all but treaty changes. We will veto that suggestion. Deadlock will ensue, which will be broken by the proposal that the euro-II harmonise whatever they like, as long as they don't expect the countries outside euroland to join in. Such flexibility is already in use in the EU: in the Schengen accord on open borders and in EMU itself.

Some euro-enthusiasts will, of course, complain that this will lead to a two-tier Europe, to which I reply, "Hurrrry!" That is exactly what we want: a chance for the people of each country to choose how much integration they are comfortable with. If I were Italian, I would be delighted for the EU to take over powers from my often fractious and unstable national governments. Being British, I am more dubious.

And if that leaves us outside "the heart of Europe", so what? Actually, we have never been there, and would not reach it even if we joined the euro. The heart of Europe is Germany and France and, for genuine historical, cultural and geographical reasons, it always will be. But what does it matter? We can take advantage of our hinge position between Europe and America.

Would we be poorer outside? Far from it. For a start, we would retain the flexible labour markets that the euro-II will be tempted to legislate away. That would make us even more competitive. And the City will be fine: it has always excelled in offshore business.

Most important, though, our chances of maximising our growth and minimising our unemployment depend on having interest rates that are tuned as closely as possible to the state of our economy at any one time. Just a point or two too high, and we dampen growth and lose jobs; too low and we suffer inflation, making our industry uncompetitive. The euro interest rate is likely to be a bit wrong for most of the time, as Germany is already finding. Outside, we are more likely to have interest rates that are just right.

So I have a very sunny vision of Britain outside the euro. It is not just that I fear what we would lose inside: the chance to throw out the people who run our economy badly, the loss of levers over economic policy and much more. I look forward to what we would gain outside. Compared with the eurozone, Britain would be a dynamic, flexible, modern, open country with the ability to be quick on its feet and to make the most of its unique position linking Europe and America.

Inside the EU but outside EMU, we can have the best of both worlds. Why throw it away?

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TWO MORE PHOTO-OPPORTUNITIES

## It's dead wrong

We deplore the murderers of British tourists, but bomb Iraqis with impunity

This week, as we are all aware, a group of non-Europeans killed a group of Britons in a most brutal fashion. The story is still being given sensational coverage in the British media. Meanwhile a group of Britons have been killing non-Europeans in a most brutal fashion. That story has been ignored.

The killing of four Britons in Uganda, allegedly because of Britain's support for the Tutsi regime in Rwanda, was ghastly and tragic. Travellers to turbulent parts of the world take a risk. British visitors have been killed in Yemen, in Chechnya and in South-East Asia. None received two, three, four pages of gruesome coverage, day after day. Rwanda and its borderland is the site of Africa's Cambodia, a bloodbath not yet over. The genocide is ignored by British and American interventionists largely because blacks are killing blacks, and doing so far from cameras and aircraft carriers. It is hard not to conclude that the attention given to this tragedy was because blacks killed whites, and with gruesome weapons, thus conforming to the stereotype of "barbaric" Africa.

Now for the unimportant killing. Britain is currently conducting a bombing campaign against Iraq in support of the War of Clinton's Frustration. In December, British and American forces unleashed a rain of terror on Baghdad with the macho title of Desert Fox. This was a 72-hour burst of bombs and missiles, whose objectives were obscure. They were variously to "teach Saddam a lesson", to "disarm him from the air", to restore weapons inspections and possibly to yield a coup. Afterwards, Tony Blair boasted "We have put Saddam back firmly in his cage and secured it". Washington agreed. Its justification for Desert Fox was to achieve what United Nations inspectors had failed to achieve: to neutralise President Saddam Hussein's offensive weapons. This had been done.

In which case what was the point of continuing with sanctions after December? The answer is that there was a wider war aim. Within weeks the bombing resumed. In the past two months, more bombs have fallen on Iraq than during Desert Fox. A wider list of targets has included vaguely defined "command and control" sites. Even assuming a pilot knows what he is aiming at, he cannot be sure of hitting it. The Pentagon recently

confirmed that only half of Desert Fox's 34 air defence targets were hit. The UN staff in Baghdad are now auditing civilian casualties from some 80 recent Anglo-American raids. In the past two months, they confirmed 17 dead, including a woman and five children, in a housing estate in Basra, an outrage that would have stunned the media had it been an Iraqi bomb in a British housing estate. They have confirmed five women and five children killed in Abu Khasib, six civilians killed in Najaf, and five civilians killed in "southern Iraq" on February 15. There have been confirmations that hundreds more have been maimed and wounded and thousands driven from their homes.

The means of their death is no less "barbaric" than was used in Uganda. Blast and fragmentation weapons are designed to attack the body with shrapnel pellets, like hundreds of stab wounds. They turn buildings either into infernos or into concrete missiles or into live-burial bombs. The deaths may not look ghastly from a pilot's cockpit, or from a targeting computer, or on the follow-up video, or even from Downing Street. But these weapons are the cruellest harbingers of death. The endgame of the most sophisticated technology is not a clean bullet in the head, but a medieval killing, the mutilating, shattering and crushing of the human body.

Of course ministers will say that civilian casualties are mistakes. I am sure some Hutu commander regards the killing of British tourists in Uganda as a mistake. His gangsters were out for Tutsis and hit the wrong camp, like a Tomahawk gone haywire. But British ministers are not crazed Hutus. They are acting within rules of engagement that should pass muster in a civilised democracy. At

present they do not pass muster. This war has not even been put before the House of Commons. The reason is that it cannot be defended there, even before a Commons which these days has all the independence of a Baghdad military parade.

This week the poor Defence Secretary, George Robertson, was pushed forward to parrot the old Vietnam War phrases. The targets, he explained, were being "degraded" by British pilots "in self-defence" while flying "humanitarian missions" intended "to protect the Iraqi people". I had a flashback to General Westmoreland in Saigon, explaining why you must bomb a village to save it. Meanwhile Mr Robertson and his friends this week bombed the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline at Ceyhan, the conduit for oil-ford food that is the one shred of humanitarianism left in this affair. We let Iraq sell oil for children's food, then bomb the oil. To hell with the

ethics. This is lunacy. I am not a pacifist. In my time I have visited some horrid, and justified, wars. But this campaign is indefensible. The "official" objective is quite different from December's Desert Fox, which was to punish the Iraqi President and destroy his chemical and biological weapons. This campaign is allegedly to protect the "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country. But Saddam is not threatening them. He is merely using his, supposedly degraded, air force to "cheat and retreat": to entice the British and American planes into bombing attacks that he hopes will win him Arab and Eastern bloc support. His tactic appears to be working.

We are now told privately that the real reason for the war is different again. It is to go on pounding Iraq with bombs, any old where, until they do what bombers have never

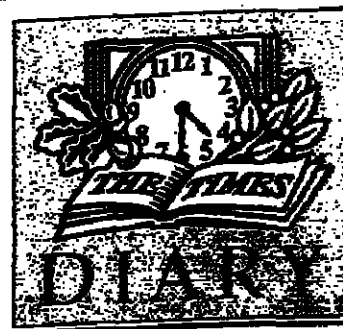
done before: bring about the downfall of a regime. This reason cannot be declared because it is illegal. For better or worse, overthrowing the leader of a sovereign state by force runs counter to both the UN Charter and international law. So what we have here is, in reality, a private war against Iraq that neither London nor Washington can avow. The nearest parallels are the operations by Presidents Nixon and Reagan against hostile Governments in Chile, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Panama. Mostly they used mercenaries. Britain is using the RAF.

In which case, cries a modern Palmerston, at least let it work. But how? This is a war without any plan, any tactic, any strategy or any foreseeable victory. It is mere bombing. Toppling Saddam Hussein would plainly require a ground assault. Britain has neither the will nor the guts for that. If Anglo-American forces invaded, against the opposition of half the world, they would have to fight and to stay. As in Bosnia and presumably in Kosovo, they would have to take responsibility for the aftermath. They would need to be proper policemen, rather than the present hit-and-run vendetta squad.

The British Government lacks the courage of its convictions in this venture. It is pursuing low-cost, low-risk machismo. It is doing something relatively easy, but obscenely cruel, to avoid having to do something hard but sensible. This would be to admit that a decade of anti-Saddam strategy has failed and sanctions should end. Bombing and sanctions have merely entrenched him, and worsened the impoverishment of his people. British ministers keep saying they have no quarrel with the Iraqi people, only with Saddam. Not so: There are two quarrels. One is with Saddam, which he is winning. The other is with the Iraqi people, which they are losing. They are the ones Britain is bombing.

The present British Cabinet and Parliamentary Labour Party are largely composed of one-time anti-war protesters. A general once told me that whenever he saw ban-bombers on the march his instinct was to run for cover. He was right. But I never thought the marchers would end up dropping the bombs.

comment@the-times.co.uk



## Loose cannon

AS MONICA LEWINSKY flies over here with her amorous tale, Major James Hewitt is heading over there to give a lecture tour about his friendship with the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

The major, a lovely rat really, says he is poised to follow Baroness Thatcher, John Major and the writer, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, where he could earn as much as £30,000 a chair. For as the great novelist says: "I gave a lecture in Palm Beach yesterday and half the questions were about Diana."

"If Archer can do it, anyone can," Hewitt claims. Talking about the Princess is "painful" but he admits that if he were to give a lecture series "it is an aspect of my life one would have to touch upon".

MADONNA'S affection for Britain extends to our floors: she has bought a £30,000 pure British carpet to line her daughter's nursery. The singer commissioned 160 square metres for young Lourdes from Heckmondwike Carpets in Yorkshire. A big bedroom, that, for a little girl.

DIANE ABBOTT claims wildly in the House, amid stifled choruses, that a black had rung her to say the Foreign Office has "an arsenal of personal information" to use against her. Perhaps she meant me. I rang to relay a harmless little story about the time she played opposite Michael Portillo in a school play. She seemed to construe this as an FO plot to bring her down. You must get out more, Diane.

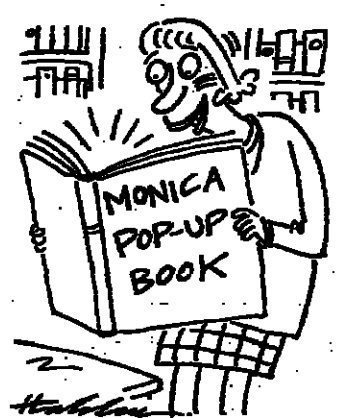


THE saucer-eyed Sophie Dahl, granddaughter of Roald (both above), is to venture to India to ease her writer's block. The orb of modelling tells me she is tired of London and dreams of escape to a mobile-free mecca. "I have been trying to write for ages," she says. "All my student friends do the travelling thing, but I missed out because I work so hard."

WILLIAM HAGUE has had an idea. Or three. To be fair, the Tory leader, I hear, has devised themes to push in a summer offensive.

The first, the British have not changed (they still hate social security fraud, paying tax, etc). The second, the Tories should be the "new Whigs". This requires the Tories "to tell a story of progress". As well as contradicting theme one, this seems to sit a little oddly with, well, Conservatism. Theme three (ah, that familiar glow): freedom. Back to the brain vat, William.

SHOOTING rather than the Liberal Democrat leadership is exercising the splendid Mercedes Campbell. As the 45 potential candidates met, some expressed concern about disclosing the result on August 9. "Whatever is the problem?" piped up Ming. "It's better than August 12."



IN HIS efforts to flog the Millennium Dome, Lord Falconer of Thornton is trying with a classic play favoured by property developers. The chubby one is poised to make the Greenwich erection a sexier buy by cleverly redefining it as a company rather than an asset. Thus, a purchaser would pay stamp duty of 0.5 per cent, incurred on share sales, rather than 3 per cent, which falls due on asset disposals. The only loser? You.

THE Queen's distaste for dreary repetition fills me with admiration. Sent a rare invitation from the Royal Opera House to see The Marriage of Figaro, she politely sent her regrets because she had already seen it — remembering it as the one about the girl losing a pin.

JASPER GERARD

## 'Asterix in euroland: featuring the Magister Primus, Tony Preposterus, and his noisy henchman Bill Cashnametapexif'

Now is the time for Asterix and Obelix to visit euroland. Those archaic cartoon Gauls have deconstructed and taken the pix out of most other human pomposities in their struggles with J. Caesar and his original Treaty of Rome. With a Falstaffian majesty they refuse to take at all seriously all persons, powers and institutions that take themselves seriously. Participants in the euro debate are ripe for their attention.

So on his next quest Asterix should revisit his cousins in Britannia Magna, where the debate rages hottest. The very names lend themselves to his punning art, from Eurosepeix, Chief Druid of the Oompah-pah Sept which worships the late defunct Jimmy Auriex, to Euromania, the high priestess of the confederated led from the rear by various bashful Latin lovers. These include the Magister

Primus, Tony Preposterus of the cheesy curate's smile, and his Magister Secundus, Guru of Darkness, Petrus Mandelfilius.

There Asterix and Obelix will meet Bill Cashnametapexif Verivolunimus, whose oratory can empty the Senate of senators and a newspaper page of its readers faster than any other campaigner, except, perhaps, for Ted Campus (Heath) of the Europhilic Clan. Winsome Teresa Gormanania shall carry a spear, entirely for her own cursus honorum rather than any tribal cause, and so will Anticlimax Hastings, scribe for Conradus Nigerrimus. Another scribe for Nigerrimus, Christopher Liberer, will each week publish a horror story about some imaginary pettyfogging regulations emanating from the great law-making convention under the Brussels Sprout. And the following week somebody who knows

anything about it will write to point out that he has got all his facts wrong, as per usual. Panacea. Impedimenta will swing her handbag again at filthy froggy foreign fiends, as she once did beside her sister Boadicea. And Geratrix Tebbittix, the grumpy old man of heri, will snarl and gibber such threats as shall be the terrors of the earth, could anyone still be bothered to listen to or understand him.

As usual for Asterix, we shall have a pictorial pun, perhaps from Rubens's painting of Zeus visiting Danaë in a tickler-tape shower of eurobombs. And there must be a literary reference, possibly to Doctor Debus Owing, leader of the neweurope sect

Philip Howard



of opportunist kermes and galloglasses, "Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong," is everything by starts and nothing long.

There will be cacophonous pax of dogs of a snappy Russell nature, as is suitable in Britannica, all called Idéfix and Dogmatix. The tribal prophet will produce, for a suitably large emolument in menhirs from Stonehenge, the answer anybody wants by rephrasing the question craftily. For example: "Do you want your feudal levies in euro menhirs decided by Attila de Loris in Frankfurt, or by Unionjux Sendervictorius and Applinglorius, your tribal chief-

tains at Westminster?" An economist, called Hypothetix Vainglorius, will expound unintelligible runes about Endogenous Variable Growth Economics, and crowds of assorted voters and nutters, with such names as Histrixix, Tragolomix, Homeopathix and Sophistix will demonstrate, screeching: "Serva nostram libram. Save our pound."

To conform to the Asterix consilium, there will be some Gadus (cod) pedagogy, about how the pound sterling has developed from older tribal totems such as angels, guineas, florins and, as it happens, the first euro coinage, the libra. And the curious route by which the almighty dollar sprang out of the "large groats" coined by an obscure Bohemian Count in a dim Bohemian village in 1518, and crossed the Atlantic by way of James VI's sword dollars in

Scotland, and Spanish pieces of eight. Chancellor Odiuscomparison will declare in his Budget that money like menhirs has only two properties: it should be flat so that it can be piled up. And it should be round, or oblong, so that it can circulate. There will be a Virgilian tag, remembered from Old Chalky, Libras sacra fames, perhaps. The absurd hunger for the pound.

As usual, the whole lousy mess will have to be resolved by a magic potion, brewed at the Ripa of Anglia by Eddie Genafix. For the British curonments the ingredients should be bos or (beef on the bone), boiled cabbage soaked in mint sauce, genetically modified chips with vinegar, weak tea and warm beer. And the Asterix book will be more illuminating and edifying than most of the propaganda put out by the fissionous and endearing tribes of Ancient Britain.





## BLAIR'S BANANA SKIN

What a ridiculous way to duck the blame for a trade blunder

Tony Blair greatly admires the free-trading, modernising socialism of the Dutch. Had his ministers listened to the Netherlands last year, Scotland's cashmere industry would not now be facing ruin for the sake of an outlawed EU scheme to shield Caribbean banana-growers from competition. Nor would his backbench troops be following his irresponsibly populist lead as they bay for the blood of wicked multinationals with all the unreconstructed fervour of old Labour. Nor would Britain be courting American contempt by summoning the US Ambassador for a carpeting by the Trade Secretary, Stephen Byers, over a trade dispute where the EU, and Britain, have repeatedly been found by an impartial global panel to be legally in the wrong. Robin Cook, never one to avoid digging when the hole yawns, is apparently to repeat this foolish performance today.

What ails this Government, that it should resort to so public a drubbing of its closest ally, with a demerit that, even when she was at her angriest over the US invasion of Grenada, Margaret Thatcher had more sense of decorum and proportion than to contemplate? Is it the Scottish elections that make Mr Blair, there on a visit, pour forth oaths about "our determination to make sure British jobs and Scottish jobs are protected"? Or does this posturing conceal private embarrassment that Britain, this great free-trading nation, shares with the European Commission much of the blame for this stupid crisis?

Britain chaired the EU council which last year, after the EU's banana regime had been condemned by an impartial panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as a breach of global trade rules, decided to substitute one trade-distorting regime for banana imports with another. The Dutch, with Denmark, voted against, rightly arguing that the US had won its case and it was time for the EU to obey the agreed laws governing global trade.

Sir Leon Brittan's letter on this page

denies that the EU has dragged its feet. Why then did it ignore the first ruling against it, back in 1994? Why, after the US had won for a third time, did it wait more than 12 months before changing the banana regime — and attempt, even then, to stifle past the rules rather than respect them? Sir Leon is too battle-hardened a veteran of transatlantic trade negotiations not to have known that the Americans, who have been waiting half a decade for action, would not be so easily fobbed off. The irresistible conclusion is that he has filibustered, knowing that if the EU tinkered with a quota or two, it could then demand that Washington go back to the WTO and fight the battle all over again. On Sir Leon's own admission, the EU is still refusing to discuss with the US "the substance of the new regime" — a regime whose whole purpose is discriminatory.

The US has been criticised in the past on this page for using its muscle rather than playing by the rules; but in this case, after sitting for six years like patience on a monument, it is hardly surprising that it is no longer smiling on the grief the EU persists in causing the world trade system. Rules, unlike bananas, may not be bent, if global trade is to thrive. The Government has known since at least last November about America's March deadline for exacting compensation for losses suffered by America's banana distributors — time enough to ensure that the axe did not fall.

It is quite true that the US has no legal right to impose sanctions until yet another WTO panel has decided how much compensation is appropriate; but it has not, technically, done so: customs bonds must be posted, but will not be collected until the WTO reports. If Mr Blair objects to legalistic games, he should not have joined Brussels in playing them. Makers of cashmere, batteries or biscuits are right to be disgusted. But it is British ministers — not evil US multinationals — that they should blame for their undesired plight.

## SENATOR CLINTON

Republicans want the First Lady to fight in New York

While the United States and much of the wider world awaited the words of the Latest Lover, the First Lady has spent the past two days in New York dropping hints that she may seek election to the Senate. Hillary Clinton's speech there on Wednesday in which she said that "we cannot drop out of the political process" was deliberately teasing. If she stands, her opponent will almost certainly be Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican Mayor of New York City.

This would be a bitter and expensive battle. Mrs Clinton starts with strong poll ratings and undoubted celebrity. But she has never sought elective office before and is notoriously thin-skinned in her media dealings. Mr Giuliani has already raised her public support for a Palestinian state as an issue that might alienate Jewish voters. This may prove less of a difficulty if Binyamin Netanyahu loses the forthcoming Israeli election and is replaced by a politician willing to surrender more territory to Yasser Arafat. It is, however, an indication of what Mrs Clinton will face if she chooses to accept the Senate challenge.

Her biggest liability would be her status as an outsider. Born in Illinois, educated in Connecticut, resident of Arkansas, currently established in Washington, she has only slender connections with the Empire State. This may not matter much in Manhattan or even the rest of New York City where many voters are themselves recent immigrants. It takes more than a (Greenwich) village, however, to be elected across the whole of New York State. In cities such as Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse, Mrs Clinton's lack of local knowledge will matter.

## OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

Parliament opens its chambers to tourism

Roll up, roll up. Tickets for London's longest-running show. Enter the Chambers, if you dare. The Palace of Westminster is throwing open its doors. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. This tour is not for the faint-hearted. Prepare yourself for the grey-suited ghouls of London's most authentic Chambers of Horrors. Don't be deceived by Betty Boothroyd's matronly manner, a harp-tongued Speaker presides here. Listen to the baying of political debate. Follow me ladies and gentlemen, to the cries and crannies where the cameras never probe. Pry into those places where plots have been perpetrated.

Here politicians have been skewered, stabbed and grilled. Party leaders have lost face. Cromwell's head, exhumed after the restoration of Charles II, glared down on this hall for 20 years. And Spencer Perceval met his end, near here in Pugin's magnificent lobby. He was the only Prime Minister ever to be assassinated in deed not in word.

Now we are standing in the Commons chamber. Note the red lines: two sword-lengths apart — just far enough to separate fractious Members. But still, they failed to stop MPs from exchanging more than stop verbal blows. Emmanuel Shinwell once hit a Tory here so hard that the man's ears rang for the rest of his life. He may have been among the many who resorted to drink to quell their nerves. Even Disraeli quaffed brandy and water. Gladstone

Mr Giuliani can be relied upon to exploit his advantage ruthlessly.

Some Democrats have argued that this disadvantage is exaggerated. They point out that Robert Kennedy, a citizen of Massachusetts, fought and won a New York Senate seat in the 1964 elections. The comparison is somewhat dubious. The Kennedy family were intimates with New York's financial community. Mr Kennedy was a former Attorney-General of the US and running in the aftermath of his brother's assassination (not a husband's acquittal) when elected. To paraphrase the then Senator Lloyd Bentsen's devastating rebuke to Dan Quayle in 1988, Mrs Clinton, you are no Bobby Kennedy.

She is, nonetheless, a formidable figure. A Clinton campaign in New York would attract enormous energy, interest, and money from all over America. It would almost overshadow the presidential election as a media spectacle. This is precisely what allies of Vice-President Al Gore are afraid of. They fear that key resources will be drawn away from his efforts to succeed Mr Clinton in the White House.

That concern is shared by Democrats in other states with Senate elections in 2000. They think that funds which would otherwise be directed to them might disappear in the drive to assist the First Lady. Victory in New York could be offset by defeat in states such as Nevada. The Republicans, by contrast, are rich enough to withstand several costly campaigns. Although she may beat them in New York, it is the Republicans who would like Mrs Clinton to declare for the Senate.

preferred sherry and egg. But more sober Members may resort to snuff, provided there is a box behind the Speaker's Chair.

Here we are at the scene of many, an ill-mannered display. Two Members "did both come drunk the other day into the House, and did both speak for half an hour" wrote Samuel Pepys. And on this spot Michael Heseltine swung the Mace, mane blowing in the political tempest.

But the most heinous crimes are reserved for elsewhere, out of the public gaze. Stay close together now and follow me. There are five kilometres of corridor in which to connive. Let us begin here, behind the Speaker's Chair, where members side for secret words and juniors are whipped into party line.

Moving on swiftly we reach Plods' Bar. In watering holes like these careers have sunk while rebellions bubbled. But come deeper down into the bowels of the building to witness the scene of the most secret assignments. Here in the rifle gallery, MPs lead their researchers on. But when their investigations surface again, the revelation may lead to the end of many a career.

And now we have reached the souvenir shop. Humbugs aplenty, and these are not the only mugs in the House of Commons. Once you could only buy politicians in Parliament. Now there are more tacky trinkets of the tourist trade. Anyone fancy an embossed brown envelope?

## US 'flying in face' of banana ruling

From Sir Leon Brittan,  
Vice-President of the  
European Commission

Sir, You are quite wrong to blame EU "footdragging" for our dispute with the US over banana imports (leading article, March 4). A number of EU member states, especially Britain, have for many years favoured giving preferential access to Caribbean and African bananas to the EU market. Some of those Caribbean economies depend on bananas for up to 25 per cent of their income. Member states approved an amended banana regime last June, maintaining longstanding preferential access for African and Caribbean bananas, but responding to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling which had condemned some aspects of our earlier regime.

The US does not like the new regime. They have every right to challenge it again and achieve a final verdict in the WTO. But they have chosen not to do so. Instead, they have unilaterally determined that the new regime is not in compliance with international rules — something which is explicitly forbidden under their WTO obligations.

What the US announced yesterday is not, contrary to their claims, a suspension of sanctions action. It is an illegal measure designed to have immediate negative effects on European exports. The American Government's briefing notes for use with the press confirm this. They explicitly state that "we realized by effectively stopping trade as of March 3".

Their claim that they are obliged to act now in order to preserve their WTO rights is unfounded. It was expressly refuted by the WTO arbitrators on March 2, as was the figure for damages the Americans are claiming.

The US is flying in the face of the WTO, an organisation which the EU and the US worked hard to establish and from which we both benefit. The US has taken and won more dispute settlement panels than any other nation. But now they are resorting to the sort of unilateralism which we have been struggling for years to resist.

As for the Commission's role, we have been seeking a settlement and have been ready to address with the Americans the substance of the regime, but not under the duress of threatened unilateral action. Some weeks ago I recommended to EU member states that we should have discussions with the Americans. Many were in favour. Others, including the United Kingdom, were reluctant to agree, although I am happy to note that the British position has since developed and talks have been taking place.

I shall continue to work for a settlement, as I have worked with some success to settle other disputes caused by sanctions-happy American policy. Yours etc,  
LEON BRITTON,  
Vice-President,  
European Commission,  
Rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1049 Brussels,  
March 4.

## Breastfeeding problems

From Mrs Alison Watts

Sir, I was sad to read of the traumatic experience of the baby Jessica and her parents in "Breast is not always best" (Weekend, February 27). Beatrix Clark has an understandably negative view of breastfeeding. In this instance it seems that breastfeeding was not properly established, but normally a woman's midwife would pick up any early signs of a problem and help to put things right.

Formula feeding, not breastfeeding, is regarded as normal in the UK and this culture is absorbed from childhood onwards. The National Childbirth Trust campaigns to help overcome the obstacles women experience and raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding.

While our objective is a breast-feeding-friendly culture, our counsellors are committed to meeting parents' individual needs, which include supporting mothers who are switching from the breast to a bottle.

Yours sincerely,  
ALISON WATTS (Chair,  
Breastfeeding Promotion Group),  
The National Childbirth Trust,  
Alexandra House,  
Oldham Terrace, Acton, W3 6NH,  
March 4.

## What a pane

From Mrs Leonie J. Hill

Sir, As a Southwark Council taxpayer, I am mightily interested in who will foot the window-cleaning bills incurred by Sir Norman Foster's ten-story "glass egg" planned for the South Bank (report and picture, February 26).

Yours faithfully,  
LEONIE J. HILL,  
6 Hampden Court,  
King & Queen Wharf,  
Rotherhithe Street, SE16 1SU,  
February 26.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## State responsibility towards caring for the elderly

From the Chair of the Royal  
Commission on Long Term  
Care for the Elderly

Sir, Your leading article, "Care free" (March 2) starts from a fundamental misconception of this commission's findings. These are not based on "old Labour instincts to trust the State". Rather we set out what we believe is the most cost-effective solution for the nation as a whole of making provision for people who need care.

We set out a new form of partnership between State and individual — one that has a cost simply because the current system places too much of a burden on the individual who is in need of care. It introduces an amount of risk-sharing which is currently lacking.

We acknowledge the uncertainty of future governments' intentions — that is why we suggest setting up a National Care Commission.

Your conclusion that the private sector — presumably insurance — should take the burden has been extensively addressed in our report. We point out how insurance will not deliver the goods. This is not just a theoretical position — all we have to do is to look at where it has been extensively market tested — in the United States. There, despite huge state subsidies, policies simply do not sell.

However, with the new form of partnership that the commission proposes, the industry will be able to design affordable products to cover the non-personal care for which the individual is responsible.

Yours sincerely,  
STEWART SUTHERLAND,  
Chair, Royal Commission on  
Long Term Care for the Elderly,  
Hannibal House, 5th Floor,  
Elephant & Castle, SE1 6TE,  
March 2.

From the Group Director of Life  
and Pensions at Norwich Union

Sir, The royal commission's report on long-term care makes a number of extremely valuable recommendations. On funding, however, it is less practical.

The funding proposals must be judged in the light of political realities. That only three people in the Foreign Office work on our travel advice. In fact, our advice originates in our 221 missions abroad, drawing on the knowledge and experience of hundreds of staff. This is co-ordinated and issued by a small professional group in London, but literally hundreds of individuals contribute to it from first-hand knowledge.

I had hoped I had made this clear at the seminar we held last week — the first of its kind — on how to improve our travel advice. We received many useful suggestions: and we shall hope to keep in touch with all those who can helpfully contribute to improving the speed and accuracy with which our advice is disseminated.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH SYMONS,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
Whitehall, SW1A 2AH,  
March 3.

From Mr Michael Ackroyd

Sir, As a European well used to travelling in Egypt, I take great exception to Edward Welsh's generalisation (feature, "How safe is your holiday", March 3) about the "vast, impoverished peasantry" and their "fanaticism". It behoves all travellers to whatever destination to take sensible precautions and to respect local customs. Foreign Office advice is readily available.

Far from channelling its frustrations against tourists, this same vast peasantry, among whom I am fortunate enough to have several close friends, are among the most hospitable people on the planet.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ACKROYD,  
PO Box 13950, London W6 8GY.  
m.ackroyd@bt.com  
March 3.

## GM foods

From Dr Bernard Dixon

Sir, The most bizarre aspect of the hysterical climate now surrounding genetically manipulated foods (letters, February 17, 19 and 23) is the denigration of scientists, coupled with the apparently fashionable belief that food was safe until science and technology rendered it "unnatural" and dangerous.

It was not scientists, but government ministers, who gave invalid public assurance over BSE. What scientists did do was to investigate and pinpoint the cause of this condition and to discover its link with human variant BSE.

More broadly, it is scientists and technologists (rather than ministers, environmental campaigners or journalists) who have provided the considerable portfolio of methods now used to combat food- and water-borne disease.

Without scientific research we would simply not have known about *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* O157 and the many other micro-organisms responsible for deadly infections such as botulism, dysentery and cholera. Without science, we would not have been able to develop pasteurisation, sterilisation, water purification and other tech-

niques which are vital to combat these diseases. Nor could we have produced the antibiotics used to cure life-threatening cases of typhoid fever and similar infections.

Our defences against food- and water-borne disease are by no means perfect. But we should remember that "nature", which is suddenly popular with well-nourished Westerners, is characterised not by wholesome, pristine purity, but by plagues and pestilences, many of them associated with food and water. We are privileged that science has helped to deliver us from much of that.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD DIXON,  
130 Cornwall Road,  
Ruislip Manor, Middlesex HA4 6AW,  
March 1.

From Ms Sue Pheasey

Sir, If Tony Blair really is in favour of genetically modified food, there is just one person he needs to convince of its safety — Della Smith.

Yours faithfully,  
SUE PHEASEY,  
30 Broad Oaks Road,  
Solihull, Warwickshire B91 1JB,  
March 2.

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, Your leader comments sensibly and with restraint on the recommendations by the royal commission, but distances itself from the plight of those who, near to or past retirement age, cannot hope "to save or insure for the future".

The present arrangements for care of the elderly and, in particular, those suffering from Alzheimer's disease can, in certain cases, prove harsh and punitive. Urgently needed now is some sort of transitional scheme to care for people who today can no

longer care for themselves. Those enjoying youth and middle age can read the warning signs and take appropriate action.

It would require only gentle tweaking of fiscal policy to accommodate the royal commission's recommendations on an *ad hoc* basis, and provide immediate assistance for those now too old, too feeble, too helpless to fend for themselves. This, surely, is a debt of honour which should be discharged without hesitation.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ORR,  
17 Berkley Drive,  
Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 7LX,  
March 2.

From Mrs Valerie Townsend

Sir, It is incorrect to say (report, February 27) that the State meets the full cost of elderly care if savings fall below £10,000.

Local county councils decide an "expect to pay" level which bears little relation to the real cost of quality care. In this county the level is currently £241 per week (£1.43 per hour) for the total physical and social residential care of a very dependent person.

Relatives makes up the shortfall in fees to enable the person to enter the home of their choice.

Yours sincerely,  
V. TOWNSEND  
(Proprietor),  
Ashdown House Residential  
Home for the Elderly,  
Ashworth Street, Daventry,  
Northamptonshire NN11 4AR,  
March 1.

From Mrs Lillian Taylor

Sir, Just to put into perspective the Government's apparent reluctance to adopt the royal commission's proposals at an annual cost of £1.2 billion, this is roughly equivalent to half the pre-tax profits of NatWest Bank, announced last week (report, Business, February 25).

Yours faithfully,  
LILLIAN TAYLOR,  
Ashdown, St Lawrence Avenue,  
Biddborough, Kent TN4 0XA,  
March 2.

## News at Ten

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, News at Ten on Independent Television comes to an end this Friday. When the Independent Television Commission decided last November to uphold the ITV companies' request to kill off News at Ten, it was reported that the commission members' vote was seven to three. The ITC did not disclose which way individual members voted.

Former ITN colleagues and I have since learned that one of the key votes to end News at Ten was cast by Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General of the BBC and now a member of the commission. No one would question his integrity, but over the decades News at Ten was a troublesome competitor to BBC News. I wonder whether Sir Michael, as former Editor-in-Chief of BBC journalism, felt he had a conflict of interest in the issue?

It would seem to me to be like giving Rommel a say in disbanding the Eighth Army.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID NICHOLAS  
(Editor, ITN, 1977-89;  
Chairman, 1989-91),  
Lodge Stables,  
2F Kidbrook Park Road, SE3 0LW,  
March 2.

## Millennium Moment

From Mrs H. W. T. Willoughby

Sir, The reported statement by a spokesman for the new Millennium Experience Company that "Church leaders would be welcome guests" at the midnight millennium celebration in the Dome (report, February 25; see also letter, March 4) — and in the context of your report these "guests" would seem to be the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster — must surely rank as the most patronising statement of all time.

Yours faithfully,  
HILARY WILLOUGHBY,  
2 The Grange, Mere,  
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DZ.

## Where now brown cow?

From Professor Michael J. Stock

Sir, Robin Otter (letter, March 3) claims that the hide of Edward Jenner's red-brown Gloucester cow can be seen in the Gloucester Folk Museum. However, we have a red-brown cow's hide on display in our medical school library that is said to be "Blossom", the cow from which the milkmaid Sarah Nelmes contracted cowpox.

St George's is very proud of its association with Dr Jenner: we have a Jenner Society, a Jenner Wing and his bust sits in our foyer — so the possibility that Blossom was not his cow is very disconcerting. Perhaps he had more than one?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. STOCK,  
Department of Physiology,  
St George's Hospital Medical School,  
Tooting SW17 0RE,  
stockm@sgms.ac.uk  
March 4.







## OBITUARIES

## CAPTAIN DAVID GOODWIN

Goodwin on the bridge of the destroyer *Duchess* in the Mediterranean in the 1950s

Captain David Goodwin, CBE, DSC, Taranto veteran and Chief of Staff, British Naval Mission, Washington, 1958-60, died on February 25 aged 87. He was born on February 2, 1912.

DAVID GOODWIN was one of the last surviving Fleet Air Arm aircrew who attacked the Italian harbour of Taranto during the night of November 11, 1940, sinking three battleships, and a cruiser for the loss of only two aircraft. The Royal Navy annually commemorates the Battle of Taranto on October 21, but such was the unprecedented success of this admirably planned and executed attack that it has since become the Fleet Air Arm's special anniversary and is celebrated by it with equal, if not greater, fervour.

Indeed, Admiral Cunningham, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean fleet, had originally wanted the attack to take place on Trafalgar Day, but a fire in the aircraft carrier *Illustrious* delayed it, while bomb damage to the aviation spirit supply system of the carrier *Eagle* caused her to be withdrawn from the operation. Goodwin was the observer and navigator in one of the five *Eagle* aircraft that were transferred to augment *Illustrious*'s strike force of obsolescent Swordfish biplanes. His pilot was a Royal Marine captain, "Ollie" Patch.

Taranto was heavily defended and the plan included diversionary bombing and the dropping of flares to silhouette the targets. Two waves, each of 12 aircraft, went in an hour apart. Goodwin, in the second wave, recalled that although he had been in many night attacks he had never seen such a barrage of searchlights and anti-aircraft fire as that put up by the Italian ships and harbour defences. He was awarded an immediate DSC for his part in the attack.

Besides providing a much needed stimulus at home, the

crippling of half the Italian battlefleet profoundly altered the strategic naval situation in the Mediterranean, freeing elements of the British Fleet for tasks elsewhere and allowing easier passage for convoys.

Joining Dartmouth in 1925 at 13, David Goodwin first served in the last of the coal-burning battleships, *Empress of India*. In the 1930s he served all over the Far East in the cruisers of the China Station. Later, when in the Mediterranean, he was in the cruiser *London* in 1936 when she became involved in latter-day gunboat diplomacy, threatening a Turkish town and landing a contingent to enforce reparations after a diplomatic incident.

Volunteering for the Fleet Air Arm in 1936, Goodwin was appointed back to the Far East in the carriers *Courageous* and *Eagle*. At the outbreak of war *Eagle* was first employed looking for the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* and escorting the first enormous convoy of Australian and New Zealand troops to the Middle East.

In 1940 with Italy entering the war, *Eagle* was the only British carrier east of Malta and was severely stretched by continuous flying operations, patrols, attacks on the Italian fleet by day and their harbours by night. Even when *Eagle* was in harbour in Alexandria, there was little respite for the air group who were sent with tents and baggage into the desert to help the Eighth Army.

After nearly three years in *Eagle*, Goodwin was sent home to command No 819 Swordfish squadron, an unusual appointment for an observer and for someone as junior as a lieutenant. Based in the Orkneys, his squadron patrolled the North Sea, waiting in vain for the German capital ships to emerge from the Norwegian fjords. In 1943, after rapid promotion to commander, he was put in charge

of the naval signal school at Arbroath where he taught the fledgling art of radar-controlled intercepts.

Appointed in command of the air group in the new light fleet carrier *Glory*, Goodwin sailed from England in 1945 for the Pacific. Arriving in Sydney just in time for the Japanese surrender, *Glory* was subsequently employed on repatriation and surrender missions. Goodwin's postwar career was notable for his two years in Australia as chief of staff to the Fourth Naval Member and for his work in helping to build up the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

On returning home, he was given command of the Navy's fighter direction and radar school, HMS *Harrier*, at Kete on the remote coast of Wales. Isolated and perched on a cliff, they had to make their own entertainment. On one occasion, Goodwin's C-in-C ordered him to do something about the excessive birthrate amongst his 180 Wren personnel.

Later appointments included two years in command of the destroyer *Duchess*. His final tour was as chief of staff to the British Naval Mission in Washington, a busy period of collaboration on nuclear submarine and missile programmes. Retiring in 1960, he was appointed CBE.

He spent the next five years as the managing director of a newly-founded company set up at Pembroke Dock to service oil tankers offloading their cargoes at Milford Haven.

From 1965 the Goodwin family moved back to the New Forest and he worked as the chairman of numerous civil service selection boards and for the Ministry of Agriculture's farm housing board. He gave up these activities in 1977 when his wife Aline, whom he had married in 1937, became disabled. She died in 1991 and he is survived by their two sons.

## HARRY BLACKMUN

Harry Blackmun, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court, died yesterday in Arlington, Virginia, aged 90. He was born in Nashville, Illinois, on November 12, 1908.

By the time he retired in 1994, Harry Blackmun had accumulated more than 60,000 pieces of hate-mail, all of it connected with a single case. For it was Blackmun who wrote the ground-breaking majority opinion in the *Roe v Wade* case in 1973, which established a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

At the centre of the case was "Jane Roe", a pseudonym for Norma McCorvey, a 21-year-old waitress from Texas who had been raped by three men after returning home from a carnival. She was pregnant as a consequence and wanted an abortion. Her case had been taken up by Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, two ambitious pro-choice lawyers who appealed to the US Supreme Court. Blackmun, who was only in his second year in the court, announced on June 22, 1973, a 7-2 ruling which invalidated the anti-abortion laws of 46 states.

Hours after the decision, hospitals in America were receiving calls from women asking where they could get an abortion. By the end of 1973 the number of abortions undertaken in America was 744,000; in 1975 the figure was one million.

Blackmun must have been a disappointment to President Richard Nixon, who appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1970. He was nominated in the belief that he was a conservative, a lifelong Republican and strict constructionist who would help his childhood friend, Chief Justice Warren Burger, to undo the liberal excesses of the Court under Earl Warren. Indeed, during his first two years on the bench, Blackmun voted with Burger on so many occasions that they became known as the "Minnesota twins" — both having grown up and gone to the same school in St Paul, Minnesota.

But then came *Roe v Wade*. Blackmun's judgments increasingly began to show tolerance of dissent, and a unconservative tendency to favour the underdog in American society. More and more often he could be found voting alongside Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall until, after their retirement, he was recognised as the leading liberal in the Court.

Blackmun believed that the law was not "a rigid animal or a rigid profession", but rather "a constant search for truth" and that justices of the Supreme Court should "grow constitutionally" during their terms. His willingness to reconsider his own



Blackmun in 1994 just before his retirement from the US Supreme Court

views was illustrated by his attitude towards non-traditional lifestyles. In 1971, in a dissenting opinion, he argued that the "absurd and immature antics" of wearing a jacket in court hearing the words "Fuck the Draft" was not constitutionally protected. And in 1974 he supported the prosecution of those who sewed the Stars and Stripes to the rear of their trousers. Yet in two later cases, in 1989 and 1990, Blackmun held that the First Amendment protected those who burnt the American flag during political protests.

When the Court ruled in 1977 that women on low incomes could not receive federal funding for abortions on the grounds that they could find the money elsewhere, Blackmun described the reasoning as "disingenuous and alarming, almost reminiscent of 'Let them eat cake'". There is another world out there," he went on, "the existence of which the Court, I suspect, either chooses to ignore or fears to recognise."

At the root of Harry Blackmun's judicial philosophy was his understanding of the impact that Supreme Court decisions often had on those who inhabited what he called "the real world". He once said "every case involves people. If we forget the humanity of the litigants before us we are in trouble, no matter how great our supposed legal philosophy can be."

The son of devout Methodists, Harold Andrew Blackmun won a partial scholarship to Harvard University where he graduated in 1929 in mathematics. For a time he toyed with the idea of a medical career, but eventually decided on the law and gained his LLB degree from Harvard Law School in 1932.

Blackmun's subsequent career, as a lawyer specialising in tax cases and civil litigation for a firm in Minneapolis, seemed unlikely to fit him for the legal heights. He left in 1950 to become resident counsel at the Mayo Clinic, and then, in 1959, became a judge at

the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. This may have had something to do with the fact that Warren Burger, with whom he had delivered newspapers at school, was by this time a judge on the Appeals Court in Washington.

Blackmun worked long hours and produced equally long and scholarly opinions. His criminal decisions were solidly conservative, and though there was a hint of liberalism in his rulings on civil rights, it was not enough to disturb President Nixon when he chose a replacement for the disgraced Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas in May 1969.

Blackmun was not Nixon's first choice, but after Clement Haynsworth and Harold Carswell had been rejected by the Senate on the grounds that the first had dubious business ties, the second was mediocre, and both were anti-black, Nixon needed a safe alternative. So Harry Blackmun won unanimous Senate confirmation and was duly sworn in as the Supreme Court's ninth justice on May 12, 1970. Blackmun would subsequently refer to himself as "Old Number Three".

It was shortly afterwards that Blackmun provided a clue to the career that was to follow. "I've been called a liberal and a conservative," he said. "Labels are deceiving."

As Reagan and Bush aimed to establish a conservative majority in the Court during the 1980s, Blackmun seemed increasingly liberal by contrast, though he maintained that it was not he who had changed, but the Court. Shortly before his retirement in April 1994, he called for the forcible repatriation of Haitian refugees to cease, and announced that he was against the death penalty. A friend of President Clinton, Blackmun timed his retirement to allow Clinton to appoint a liberal successor. He was succeeded by Stephen Breyer.

On the abortion issue he did not waver. As each challenge emerged over the years, and *Roe v Wade* seemed increasingly threatened under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, Blackmun grew increasingly passionate. In a dissenting opinion to the majority decision in the case of *Webster v Reproductive Health Services* in 1989, he concluded: "The women of this nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows."

Nevertheless, to date, his original ruling has not been overturned, though ironically, late last year Norma McCorvey — "Jane Roe" — announced that she had become a Roman Catholic, and now she speaks out against abortion.

Harry Blackmun is survived by his wife Dorothy, and three daughters.

## RICHARD ALLEN

Richard Allen, painter and teacher, died on February 9 aged 66. He was born on February 8, 1933.

RICHARD ALLEN was best known as a decidedly rigorous systems artist, painting patterns made up of grids and bars and frequently confining his palette to black and white, or even white on white. In the circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that he was better known abroad than at home, though a contributory factor was his withdrawal from the London art scene, to live and work in Jersey, in 1977.

Born in Worcester, Allen initially intended to do something in agriculture, and to that end studied at Worcester College of Technology. But after doing his National Service in Korea he was bitten by the art bug, and a chance encounter encouraged him to transfer his studies to Worcester School of Art in 1955. In 1957 he went on to Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, where his contemporaries included Howard Hodgkin.

While studying there he became interested in the kind of free-form semi-abstractism then much in vogue, though his sympathies shifted slightly when, on a year-long art scholarship from the Italian Government, his imagination was captured by a Milan hoarding made up of re-used planks still bearing jumbled remnants of old posters.

On his return to England he made his first appearance before the public as a pop artist. The phase was short-lived, however, and was succeeded by an interest in Op Art and kinetic art, so by 1964 he was exhibiting alongside Bridget Riley and Peter Sedgely in Op Art manifestations. He even joined the Match Shed co-operative organised by Riley and Sedgely, and exhibited with the newly opened Angela Flowers Gallery in 1972, showing paintings based on moiré patterns.

In 1971 he had joined Matrix, a group interested in exploring an even more systematic form of painting. This evolved into Systems, in whose work every detail was



Richard Allen in his studio during the 1970s

controlled by a system of construction previously arrived at. Curiously — though Allen applied these ideas as precisely as anybody — he was plagued with self-doubt.

The Minimalist approach to art that became fashionable in the mid-1970s suited him better, and under its influence he became what he liked to call a "fundamental" painter. About 1975 he decided to remove colour altogether from his art, confining himself instead to grid patterns made with charcoal and cellulose acetate on canvas or wax and charcoal on paper.

He remained true to this self-denying ordinance for

some 20 years, returning to partial colour only in the mid-1990s, when he began a series of "White Paintings" in oils, which are to be shown at Angela Flowers this April.

Though it may seem from this account that Allen was unduly influenced by whatever happened to be the *avant garde* fashion of the moment, his art was in fact remarkably consistent and independent in its development. It was simply that, as a modest man much given to self-questioning, he needed as much outside reassurance as possible.

Those he taught, in his many teaching and advisory capacities, found him remark-

ably undictatorial, with his eye much more on the spiritual values of art than on commercial knowhow.

His wife Evelyn, whom he married in 1961, came from Jersey, and when they moved to the island he played an active part in its artistic life, opening two galleries devoted to contemporary art and encouraging the establishment of a Jersey Arts Centre, as well as founding Exart, a design company ready to take on all sorts of commissions, including designing the signs for Jersey Zoo.

From Jersey he continued to work internationally, being called in regularly as a consultant by the Ruhr Regional Planning Authority and similar bodies in The Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary and even, occasionally, England.

In 1991, Allen and his wife decided to return to England and settled in Whitby-on-Wye. Shortly after their return, however, Evelyn was stricken with cancer, and she died in 1997. Soon after her death Allen himself was found to be suffering from motor neurone disease. His response to the diagnosis was to move to London, buy himself a computer and begin to use it in his art to design paintings which could be executed by others if he became physically incapable.

Last year he enjoyed a retrospective exhibition, which began at the University of Wales School of Art, Aberystwyth, and will be seen in Jersey later this year. He is survived by two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## TICKETS FOR SALE

ALLIANCE, All Britain, 1998, All 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 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1010th, 1011st, 1012th, 1013th, 1014th, 1015th, 1016th, 1017th, 1018th, 1019th, 1020th, 1021st, 1022nd, 1023rd, 1024th, 1025th, 102



## NEWS

## Protest to US in banana trade war

■ Britain's relations with the United States were jolted last night as a long-running dispute over banana imports to Europe flared into a trade war. The American Ambassador to London was summoned to the Department of Trade and Industry to face a fierce protest over Washington's action in imposing swingeing new duties on £350 million worth of European goods, including the Scottish cashmere industry. Page 1

## Uganda pledges justice for victims

■ Holding out death notes placed on the chests of two victims of Monday's slaughter of tourists in south-west Uganda, an army colonel vowed that his men would hunt down and kill the Rwandan rebels responsible. "It will not be a day; it will not be a week — but we will get them". Pages 1, 16, 17

## Royal day out

Prince Philip landed the plum part when he and the Queen spent a day touring London's theatreland yesterday. Page 1

## GM fears on water

The water industry is demanding a moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops amid fears that the chemicals used on them may heavily pollute rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Page 2

## Foster pair charged

A couple who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their foster daughters are to be charged with abduction, police said. Page 5

## 'Imposter wife' claim

A husband turned cold against his wife because he believes she has been replaced by an imposter, a court heard. Alan Davies is convinced that his real wife died in a car crash. Page 7

## Premium on students

Universities will receive a 5 per cent "premium" for every student they recruit from poor areas, to try to ensure that an extra 45,000 places go to groups under-represented on campuses. Page 8

## Dome super sale

The 90ft body in the Millennium Dome is to be the prize lot in a sale of the exhibition's contents at the end of 2000. Page 9

## Monica publicity train leads to Essex

When Monica Lewinsky began her affair with President Clinton, it is unlikely that she saw it ending with a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex. The shopping mecca is, however, where she will be at 11.30am next Saturday, signing copies of Andrew Morton's book and fulfilling her requirement of the modern book deal — the publicity tour. Page 3

## Vanessa staff sacked

The BBC has sacked three members of staff from *The Vanessa Show* over allegations that fake guests appeared on the programme. Page 11

## Westminster fee plan

Plans to charge tourists £6.50 to visit the Palace of Westminster over summer could be blocked by the House of Lords. Page 12

## US pilot acquitted

Italians reacted with anger to the acquittal of a US Marine pilot on all charges of reckless flying when his jet sheared a gondola cable above an Italian ski resort, killing 20 people. Page 13

## Iraq lures pilots

British and American aircraft over hidden surface-to-air missile sites as part of daily confrontations over Iraq. Page 14

## Iran backs reform

Reformers supporting President Khatami of Iran appear set for victory in the first ever local elections which have highlighted the waning influence of his hardline opponents. Page 15

## Tiananmen petition

Ten years after the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, relatives and friends of those killed or injured have petitioned the National People's Congress to apologise. Page 18



The Cornish piper Merv Davey prepares to lead today's St Piran's day parade over the dunes at Perranporth to St Piran's oratory

**Rates held:** The European Central Bank held its key interest rate unchanged at 3 per cent, ignoring pressure from Germany to cut the cost of borrowing in countries within the single currency. Page 27

**Insurance payout:** Royal and Sun Alliance is returning £750 million in cash to investors despite suffering a 39 per cent fall in operating profits. Page 27

**Rolls-Royce boom:** Rolls-Royce ended the year with a £10.4 billion order book, and work worth £2.2 billion in the pipeline. Page 27

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 53.1 to 6104.4. The pound fell 1.00 cent to \$1.6077 and the 0.13p against the euro to 67.35p. The sterling index rose to 102.6 from 102.5. Page 30

**Football:** Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, is expected to be away from the game for several weeks after suffering a heart attack before the game against Sheffield Wednesday. Page 32

**Motor racing:** Damon Hill was willing to bury his hatchet to press the claims of his adversary, Michael Schumacher, as this year's Formula One world champion. Page 32

**Rugby union:** Richmond were meeting to decide whether the club should apply to go into administration after Ashley Levett reduced his investment. Page 32

**Athletics:** Britain's most prestigious meeting has been downgraded to third-division status by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Page 46

**Richard Morrison:** The "dumbing down" issue is the chic cultural chatter of our day. Which is presumably why 150 of our finest thinkers are going to spend a whole weekend discussing it. Page 35

**Goethe celebrated:** The 250th anniversary of the German writer's birth is marked with a weekend of concerts at the South Bank in London. Page 35

**Pride of the valleys:** Stereophonics may be making it big in America, but the group remain rooted in their native Glamorgan. Page 36

**Kula comeback:** Written off last year, Kula Shaker — led by Hayley Millie's son, Crispian — have returned with a strong new album called *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts*. Page 37

**Loose talk:** Drawstring pants are back. And if you want to avoid looking like a puppet, let them hang around your navel. Page 20

**Betrayed:** "As a matter of fact I am in crisis. As of Thanksgiving, I've discovered a lifetime of betrayal from my husband, and I'm divorcing him." Lynn Redgrave talks to Jamie Lawrence. Page 21

**Joe Joseph:** "Robin Cook, Jack Straw, Frank Dobson, Alastair Campbell... names that have the power to inspire all of us to reassess our lives and to wonder if maybe it isn't time to emigrate". Page 21

**Preview:** Dawn French stars in *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, 9pm)  
**Review:** Paul Hoggart on the Monica interview. Pages 50, 51

## Blair's banana skin

Tony Blair greatly admires the free-trading, modernising socialism of the Dutch. Had his ministers listened to The Netherlands last year, Scotland's cashmere industry would not now be facing ruin. Page 23

## Senator Clinton

The First Lady has hinted that she may seek election in the Senate. It is the Republicans who would most like her to declare. Page 23

## Old curiosity shop

Roll up, roll up. Tickets for London's longest-running show, The Palace of Westminster is throwing open its doors. Page 23

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Quite possibly Mr Byers had never said "banana" in his life. Banana splits are not the kind of pudding this quiet, neat, trim-suited man would order. Page 2

## SIMON JENKINS

This week, as we are all aware, a group of non-Europeans killed a group of Britons in a most brutal fashion. Meanwhile a group of Britons have killed non-Europeans in a most brutal fashion. That story has been ignored. Page 22

## MARY ANN SIEGHART

The onus is on opponents of EMU to boost people's confidence that Britain can thrive in the Union outside the eurozone. Page 22

## PHILIP HOWARD

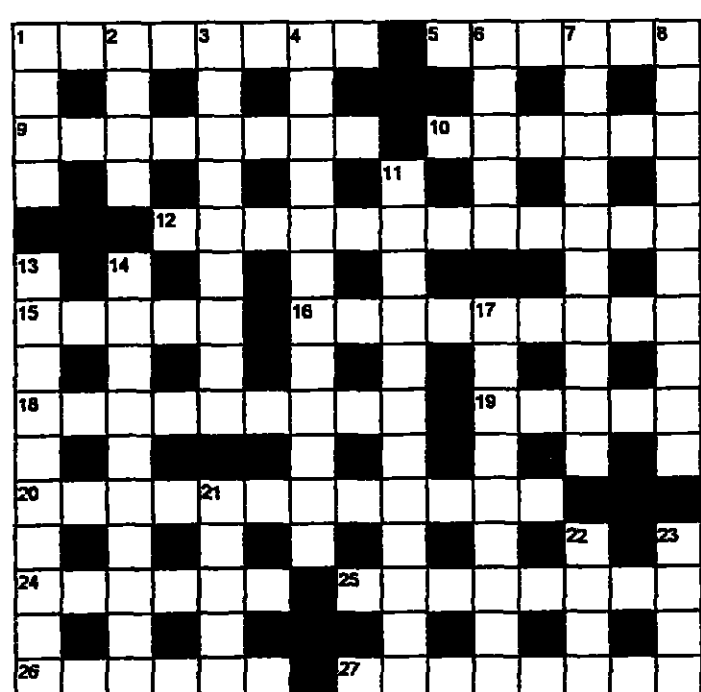
Now is the time for Asterix and Obelix to visit euroland. Those anarchic cartoon Gauls have deconstructed and taken the pix out of most other human pomposities in their struggles with J. Caesar and his Treaty of Rome. Page 22

**Harry Blackmun,** former US Supreme Court Justice; **Captain David Goodwin,** Toronto veteran; **Richard Allen,** painter. Page 25

**EU/US banana wars;** cost of care for the elderly; advice for travellers; News at Ten; breastfeeding problems; scientists' fight against disease; Dr Jenner's cow. Page 25



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,043



- ACROSS**
- Getting rid of bribes flung back in face (8).
  - Doctrinaire person gets chap in a temper (6).
  - Poet penning English sketch in outline (8).
  - Incomplete description after motorway accident (6).
  - Having no first-hand experience? (12).
  - Name on end of tide deed to make legal (5).
  - I can get queen ant on the move (9).
  - Fish caught in Scottish one, maybe (9).
  - Fruit that is old and turning bad (5).
  - Talking of a time during change-over (12).
- DOWN**
- Swindle mum, making money (4).
  - Want to have bishop's authority over king (4).
  - Defeat ended game (9).
  - One with an end in sight? (12).
  - Out in Lake Victoria (5).
  - Unconventional art coach, I'm not using colours (10).
  - Old Times composer, perhaps, a model to one like me? (10).
  - Stewed parrot — yet in tin can (12).
  - Evil, bad pieces fabricated about Liberal (10).
  - A nominal inheritance (10).
  - OPEC soon compromise, initially dropping 50% through-out to make savings (9).
  - Rub out Times puzzle finally (5).
  - State area covered by island (4).
  - Decorate supporter of crew (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 21,042

GLACIER IMPROVED  
A O H O A G O  
LUSH TINKLE WATER  
N O N N H A G O  
ADORED PLUMULES  
E T I I O L H  
PRESSING WHITE  
U L O N H E O A  
TWERP DETROINED  
A M P R U P T  
CREDITOR SORTEN  
R N N M Y H R  
ON THE LEVEL ARNE  
S A S D E N A  
SALESMAN RIDDLE

Times Two Crossword, page 52

**Latest Road and Weather conditions**  
UK Weather - All regions 0330 401 410  
UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 410  
HGVs 0330 401 410  
V2V and L2V 0330 401 410  
Channel crossing 0330 401 410  
Hawthorn 0330 401 410  
A Channel crossing 0330 401 410

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**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up  
40% of the raw material  
for UK newspapers in 1997

**FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS**  
The Times  
FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS  
The Times

**General:** western Scotland and N Ireland will be cold with brisk wind bringing sunny spells and heavy showers. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with occasional rain. England and Wales will have a chilly day with sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers. Drier towards South Coast.

**London, SE England, Cent S England, E Midlands, E England:** cloudy in east at first, higher drier spreading from west. Sunny spells and scattered showers. Cold in moderate NW wind. Max 8°C (43-45°F).

**W Midlands, Cent N & NE England:** cloudy and cold with sunny intervals and a few showers, especially towards coast. Moderate NW wind. Max 5-7°C (41-45°F).

**W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District:** cold, showers.

**Isle of Man, N Ireland:** cold, blustery with sunny spells and scattered heavy showers. Fresh NW wind. Max 6-8°C (43-47°F).

**Republic of Ireland:** sunny, scattered showers. Wind NW strong. Max 8°C (48°F).

**LI Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** a few sunny intervals, but mainly cloudy and cold with patchy rain or sleet. Moderate NE wind. Max 4-7°C (39-45°F).

**SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cold with sunny intervals and heavy showers. Strong NW wind will give high cold factor. Max 4-7°C (39-45°F).

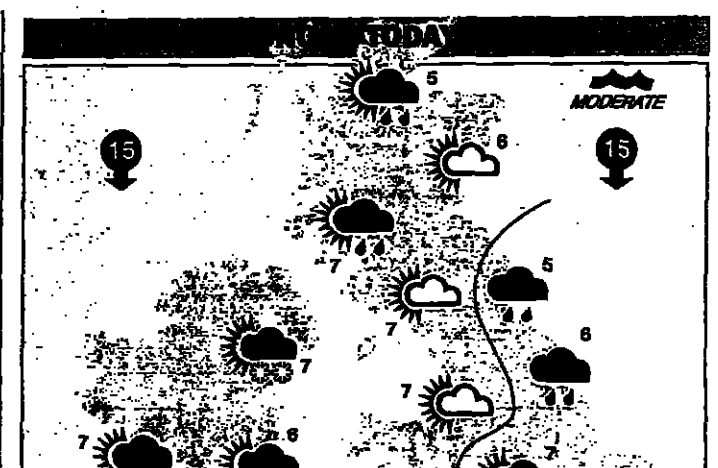
**Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with light rain in morning. Sunny spells in afternoon. Max 5-6°C (37-43°F).

**Outlook:** cold, showers.

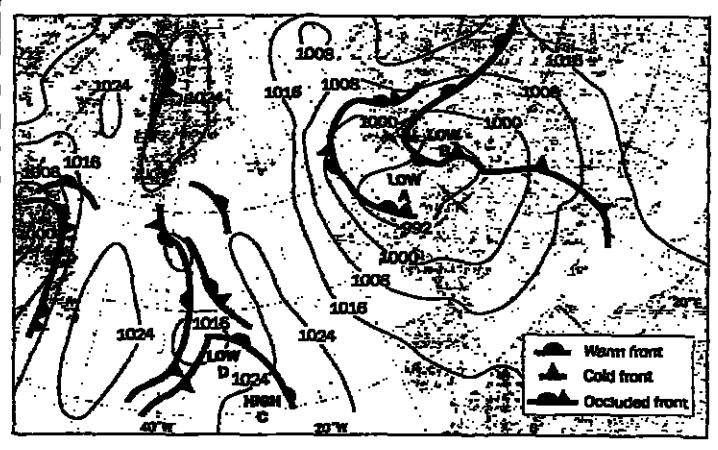
**Extremes:** highest day max: Jersey, 9°C (48°F); lowest day max: Spedadam, Cumberland, 3°C (37°F); highest rain: Newcastle, 1.02in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 7.5hr

**TEMPERATURES AT MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME WEDNESDAY, 3 MAR**

Location	Temp	Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	15	Cardiff	11	London	15
Aberdeen	15	Cardiff	11	London	15
Aberdeen	15	Cardiff	11	London	15
Aberdeen	15	Cardiff	11	London	15



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will lose its identity as low B drifts slowly NE and starts to fill; high C will decline, chilling slowly east; low D will move east, deepening



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:09	4.1	15:17	4.2	Liverpool	0:54	9.2	13:09	9.3
Aberdeen	3:09	4.1	15:17	4.2	Liverpool	0:54	9.2	13:09	9.3
Aberdeen	3:09	4.1	15:17	4.2	Liverpool	0:54	9.2	13:09	9.3
Aberdeen	3:09	4.1	15:17	4.2	Liverpool	0:54	9.2	13:09	9.3

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**XTC's agony over**

Arts, page 36

BUSINESS • ARTS • MEDIA • SPORT • TELEVISION

# THE TIMES

**Who's dumbing down?**

Arts, page 35

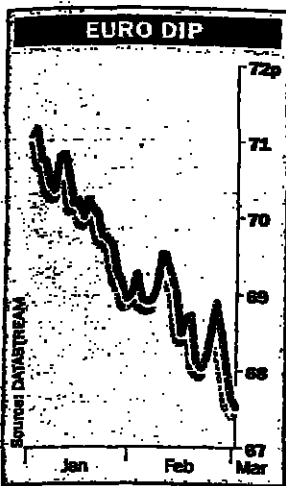
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

## Euro hits new lows as bank spurns Lafontaine's plea for rate cut

# ECB refuses to bail out Bonn

By SAKED SHAH



THE European Central Bank refused to come to the aid of a sharply slowing German economy yesterday by leaving its key interest rate on hold at 3 per cent.

Official German figures showed its economy shrinking in the fourth quarter of last year. The Federal Statistics Office of Europe's largest economy yesterday reported that the country's gross domestic product contracted by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of 1998, compared with the previous quarter, as exports weakened. For the year as a whole, the German economy grew 2.8 per

cent. Steve Barrow, European economist at Bear Stearns International, said: "Germany is half way to recession. It could easily be tipped over the edge." Two consecutive quarters of negative growth represent a technical recession.

Mr Barrow said that the yearly figure for 1998 was boosted by a "sparkling" first quarter result.

Ahead of the ECB meeting, Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's finance minister, yesterday repeated his pleas for an interest rate cut to help pull his country away from high unemployment and the dangers of a deflationary spiral. German inflation stood at just 0.2 per

cent in January, compared with a year earlier. Herr Lafontaine does not accept the ECB's argument that interest rates are already low enough. In an interview published yesterday he said: "Inflation in Europe is at an all-time low. With this situation long-term interest rates aren't low but are around 3.5 per cent higher than gross domestic product growth."

The ECB, however, views Germany's unemployment problem as a structural issue and believes that interest rate cuts would not help. The relatively high recent growth of M3 money supply and the weakness of the euro against

other currencies also weighed against a rate cut.

The euro sank to new lows against both the pound and the dollar again yesterday, drifting below \$1.08 and closing at 67.35p against sterling.

Germany has dropped broad hints that if the ECB is not willing to help to boost demand by cutting interest rate, it might resort to increasing government spending. In an attempt to boost demand, the German Government has encouraged generous wage settlements, which have come in over recent weeks at some 3.5 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

After yesterday's interest rate decision, Wim Duisen-

berg, the ECB president, said: "Wage developments are a matter of concern for the ECB, so would be the loosening of fiscal policy or a policy not in accordance with the Stability Pact."

He said that the outlook for price stability was unchanged, despite the risks to economic growth, and claimed that monetary policy was making its contribution to growth in the euro zone.

The French economy grew by 0.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1998 and Spain by 0.8 per cent. Only Italy is nursing as fragile an economic situation as Germany with fourth quarter GDP, due out next

week, expected to be negative. By contrast, the economy in Ireland grew by as much as 8 per cent last year.

The sharp differences in economic conditions across Europe was one of the major arguments against the introduction of the euro and will give the single currency's opponents in the UK valuable ammunition.

Commentary, page 29

### Business Today

Commentary: Not a word from our sponsor 29  
Stock Markets: Allright reacts well 30  
Equity prices: 33  
Unit trusts: 32



**Turkey shoot**  
South African exodus to London may be an exodus too far  
Page 31

Index	Value	% Change
FTSE 100	6101.4	(+53.1)
FTSE All Share	2804.10	(+22.2)
Nikkei	14183.45	(+13.06)
Dow Jones	9434.50	(+158.85)
S&P Composite	1244.29	(+16.56)

Index	Value	% Change
Federal Funds	4.75%	(0.00%)
Long bond	5.89%	(0.00%)
Yield	5.89%	(0.00%)

### LONDON MARKET

Index	Value	% Change
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(0.00%)
Libor 3m	5.75%	(0.00%)
Libor 6m	5.75%	(0.00%)
Libor 12m	5.75%	(0.00%)

Index	Value	% Change
New York	1.5085	(1.6142)
London	1.5078	(1.6177)
Frankfurt	1.4947	(1.4818)
Paris	2.3509	(2.3653)
Yen	108.40	(105.83)
Sc index	102.6	(102.5)

### DOLE

Index	Value	% Change
London	1.0825	(1.0864)
Frankfurt	1.0709	(1.0712)
Paris	1.0709	(1.0712)

### NORTH SEA OIL

Index	Value	% Change
Brent 15-day (May)	\$11.75	(\$11.45)

### GOLD

Index	Value	% Change
London close	\$287.35	(\$288.65)

Exchange rates: 100 yen 122.60

### Mirror outlines strategy

THE Mirror Group yesterday spelt out its manifesto for independence as rival bidders for the group face months of investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Raymond Snoddy writes).

As Mirror announced a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £100 million before exceptional costs, John Allwood, the new chief executive, said: "We are not going to sit around like turkeys waiting for Christmas."

Mr Allwood said Mirror will concentrate on newspaper and magazine publishing. That means the sale of its 20 per cent stake in the Scottish Media Group, which could bring in more than £100 million, an additional £40 million from the sale of its former Central London headquarters and up to £15 million of savings from scrapping the re-launch of *The Sporting Life*.

The MMC is investigating approaches from two local paper groups, Trinity and Regional Independent Media.

## Royal & Sun under fire over dividend

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

ROYAL & SunAlliance came under fire yesterday after the composite insurer revealed plans to return £750 million of surplus capital to shareholders, despite suffering a 39 per cent fall in profits last year.

RSA is to pay a special dividend of 48p as well as a final dividend of 15.2p. This helped to soften the impact of disappointing annual results and helped RSA shares to recover 5 per cent to 587p. A year ago they were 808p.

Bob Mendelsohn, chief executive, said RSA had finally completed its reorganisation after the troubled merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance three years ago and was now determined to use shareholders' capital more efficiently.

After a financial review RSA had concluded that it could reduce its capital base by about 10 per cent. A special dividend of £750 million would be paid, he said, bringing the total amount that the company had returned to shareholders in the past 12 months to £1.25 billion.

As part of the special payment RSA is proposing to reduce the number of its shares with a consolidation which will see investors receive ten new shares for every 11 ordinary shares in RSA they hold.

However, Tim Young, insurance analyst at Teather & Greenwood, attacked the plan, saying RSA was effectively mounting a share buyback on a 9 per cent discount. "The combination of the 48p special dividend and the share consolidation means RSA will pay 527p for shares currently worth more than 580p. It's a share buyback at a discounted price. They'll pay £750 million for paper worth more than

£823 million at today's price. A straight buyback would have been better."

RSA insisted the payment was fair and ensured that shareholders' stakes in the company remained the same.

Group operating profits for 1998 slumped from 1988 million to £602 million as severe weather losses and a sharp rise in claims almost halved worldwide profits from general insurance business to £352 million. Intense pressure in the investment and pensions marketplace meanwhile kept life insurance operating profits flat at £230 million despite a 6 per cent rise in sales during the year.

Mr Mendelsohn said he was unhappy with the results but said urgent steps were being taken to improve the situation. Yesterday RSA announced the sale of its US life business to Swiss Re for £240 million.

### PAYBACK TIME

prove the situation. Yesterday RSA announced the sale of its US life business to Swiss Re for £240 million.

Times, page 30



Sir Ralph Robins, left, chairman, and John Rose want to expand maintenance operations

## Rolls-Royce boosted by demand for civil aircraft

By ADAM JONES

BUOYANT demand for civil aircraft helped Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, to report an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits yesterday.

The company reiterated that it is gunning for another double-digit profit increase this year, despite an anticipated slowdown in the growth of orders as the aerospace market cools.

Rolls delivered about 900 engines in 1998. Profits were a record £325 million before tax. Turnover rose from £4.35 billion to £4.5 billion.

About 35 per cent of sales came from the aftermarket — the spare parts and support work that are the group's most profitable activities, although Rolls declines to disclose how much they actually make.

John Rose, chief executive, said the group wanted to expand further its maintenance operations. More joint ventures with the engine overhaul departments of airlines will be sought, following the formation of a repair company with American Airlines.

Mr Rose said Rolls would continue to collaborate with its two largest competitors, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, on specific projects but stated that a merger was very unlikely, despite the trend for mega-mergers in the aerospace industry in general. He said engine manufacture had already been rationalised to just three global businesses.

The profits include £40 million banked after the sale to BMW of the right to use the Rolls-Royce name on cars. Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of the aero-engine maker, played a key role in eventually securing the Rolls-Royce motor car brand for BMW, a partner on an aircraft engine project.

Mr Rose said the only exposure the group has to the al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal with Saudi Arabia is through the supply of spare parts. The deal, which was spearheaded by British Aerospace, has been the subject of speculation because of falling oil prices.

The last Rolls-Royce military engines ordered by Saudi Arabia have been delivered. A writ issued against Rolls by an intermediary on the al-Yamamah programme is likely to remain dormant, the company said yesterday.

The order book totalled £10.4 billion at the end of the year, with £2.2 billion in the pipeline. Orders from Asia Pacific accounted for 13 per cent of the £12.6 billion total.

Underlying earnings per share were 16.91p (15.16p). A final dividend of 4.1p per share has been declared, making 6.55p for the year, an 11 per cent increase on 1997. The shares, which have risen from 186p last September, closed at 272.4p, down from 275p.

Commentary, page 29

## IBM signs Dell deal

By ADAM JONES

IBM and Dell have signed a \$16 billion (£10 billion) deal that will see Dell use IBM's technology in its computer hardware, emphasising that even the biggest names in the industry are now reluctant to go it alone.

The pair believe that their pact is the largest yet struck in the information technology sector, which is undergoing rapid consolidation.

Dell will initially buy disk drives, flat panel displays,

memory chips and networking equipment from IBM, in a tacit admission that IBM's technology is more advanced. The supply arrangement, which may be extended to other technologies, will not stop either side dealing with third parties.

Dell is already one of IBM's biggest customers. The \$16 billion will flow through to IBM over seven years. The pair will also collaborate on developing new products and there will also be patent cross-licensing between them. IBM's compo-

nent supply business has been growing by 44 per cent a year since it was formed in 1993. It brought in sales of \$6.6 billion last year. There had been speculation that the deal would involve IBM's personal computer business, but this is not the case.

Both IBM and Dell shares rose after the deal was announced in the US yesterday. Dell shares were up almost \$2.50 to \$83.50 in late-morning Nasdaq trading. On the New York Stock Exchange, IBM shares traded at \$175, up \$8.25.

## Funds shy of equities

By CAROLINE MERRELL

PENSION funds called the top of the market last year and withdrew more than £10 billion from the London stock market last year. But their failure to reinvest means that many funds are now holding less than half their total assets in UK equities, against an average 58 per cent of their holdings earlier this decade.

According to Peter Warrington, a director of WM, the pensions consultant which collated the figures, pension

funds sold UK stock because they believed that share prices were too high.

"They took the view that the stock market was overvalued," he said.

Pension funds produced average returns of 14 per cent during the year, equivalent to a real return after inflation of 11 per cent.

Returns on the UK equity proportion of pension funds, however, were 12 per cent, 2 per cent lower than the index. Pension funds underperformed the UK index because

they were underweight in telecoms stocks and overexposed to oil exploration stocks, which fell by 61 per cent last year.

The best returns were shown by equity investments in Europe, which returned 30 per cent, and North America, where the return was 24 per cent. Over £6 billion of new money was invested in UK bonds during the year, while the return achieved was more than 20 per cent — only the second year in the past ten that UK bonds provided a better return than UK equities.

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## PowerGen warns of £100m hit

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

POWERGEN gave warning yesterday that profits would be cut by at least £100 million this year because of poor returns in the electricity market and the forced sales of power stations.

The generator said £60 million would come off profits when it disposes of two power stations and that it had taken a £40 million knock in January and February from reduced demand for electricity and greater competition. There was also a £40 million reduction in December in power trading.

Some of the problem stems from a reduction in payments for keeping power stations available. This will worsen when the market is reformed.

PowerGen plunged to a £245 million loss for the nine months to December 31 after taking a £337 million charge for renegotiating expensive gas contracts. The City had expected a loss of £215 million. Pre-tax profits before exceptional charges fell 22 per cent to 292 million, compared with the previous nine months.

Earnings per share before exceptional costs fell from 44.3p to 38.5p. The final dividend, payable on May 13, was set at 14.1p making a total of 24.1p, an 11 per cent increase on a full-year basis.

# City does not understand us, says Vickers chief

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

VICKERS, the marine engineer and tank manufacturer, yesterday accused the stock market of failing to understand its defence division, which provided almost 40 per cent of the company's revenues last year.

Paul Buysse, chief executive, said City analysts and investors did not appreciate the strength of the industry to the same extent as their counterparts in France, Germany and America.

"There is a negative perception here that surprised me," said M Buysse, a Belgian who took the top job at Vickers last year.

Analysts say Vickers's defence division is largely to blame for the slump in the company's share price from 236p in June to yesterday's price of 148p, down 1p on the day.

The value of outstanding defence contracts on Vickers's books has fallen to about £500 million from £800 million a year ago, mainly because of orders for the Challenger 2 tank being filled.

M Buysse said the division's best hope of winning a major contract rested with the Greek Government, which is expected to call tenders for a £1.5 billion-plus order within weeks. Vickers said it is also pursuing several UK defence contracts worth up to £100 million each.



Paul Buysse said analysts and investors in Britain did not appreciate the strength of the defence industry

Vickers announced yesterday that its pre-tax profit for 1998 leapt to £157 million from £19.4 million in 1997 after book-keeping profits of £162 million on the sale of several businesses, including Rolls-Royce Motor

Cars. Operating profit before exceptional costs was £42.1 million, down from £75.8 million previously, on the back of a 25 per cent fall in turnover to £92.5 million. On a continuing operations basis, however, turnover was up 2.6 per cent at £692 million.

A final dividend of 4.5p was declared, taking the full-year payout to an unchanged 7.2p.

M Buysse said a strong order book would ensure an "excellent" year for Vickers's marine division, which provided 22 per cent of last year's turnover, though the division's earnings from the offshore oil industry would dip because of the weak oil price.

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## Biocompatibles extends warrants

BIOCOMPATIBLES INTERNATIONAL, the medical coatings company that must raise more money by the end of the year, is optimistically extending the exercise date of warrants that could bring in £20 million. The warrants, which were due to expire at the end of April, are exercisable at 180p and will be worthless unless shares in Biocompatibles climb at least 61 higher than their current 82 1/2p. Biocompatibles, once valued at £1 billion but now capitalised at less than £80 million, intends to extend the warrants until December, but is also considering raising money by an issue of debt.

The company yesterday reported increased 1998 losses of £43.7 million (£28.1 million), but Crispin Simon, chief executive, said: "We are in the process of rehabilitation. We can make a lot of progress in rebuilding credibility." The focus is on the rising sales in coated contact lenses and blood vessel supports, which last year rose by 57 per cent to £9.5 million.

## US Bill approved

THE US Senate Banking Committee voted to support a Bill to modernise the banking industry that Democrats said would draw a veto from President Clinton. The bill was championed by Phil Gramm, the committee chairman. It is one of a long series of efforts to overhaul Depression-era banking laws by breaking down barriers between banks, insurance companies and brokerages. Mr Clinton, who said on Wednesday he would veto the Bill, objects to what is seen as a weakening of requirements for banks to lend in poor areas.

## Free Internet access

UK CONSUMERS will next week be offered free Internet access with free local calls for the first time, as part of a trial service. The service, both a marketing exercise and a test of public reaction to such an offer, will be launched by The X-Stream Network, the private Canadian company that launched a free Internet access service in the UK 12 months ago and prompted Dixons, the electrical retail group, to launch its own free access service, Freeserve. X-Stream said the free service would be available on March 8 only, between 6pm and midnight.

## Prague losses mount

LOSSES at Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling interest, quadrupled last year from almost £4 million to about £16 million as the Czech recession and brewery closures took their toll. Turnover was flat at just over £400 million, while volumes suffered a 6 per cent decline. The company had planned to raise funds through a rights issue. However, the minority shareholders have blocked the move and set up an action group to protect their interests. The group described Bass's management performance as "unacceptable".

## Sanderson set to spend

SANDERSON BRAMALL said it has at least £20 million to buy rival car dealers and is seeking suitable ones in the Midlands and Yorkshire. The group, which last year paid £37 million for Charles Sidney, mainly sells Ford cars, but said that despite the US manufacturer's decision to buy Ford dealerships, it has had no approach. Its shares rose 17 1/2p to 203 1/2p, a seven-month high, as it unveiled 1998 pre-tax profits of £17.1 million, up from £15.6 million. Headline earnings per share were 31.7p (27.8p). A 4.23p final dividend makes 6.35p (5.52p).

## Glycosciences database

OXFORD GLYCOSCIENCES will shortly launch the first of three databases of its protein expertise that it is developing with Incyte Pharmaceuticals, the American company that already earns substantial revenues from leading drug groups. Glycosciences is also working with Pfizer to identify proteins to measure the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease. This collaboration is potentially worth \$50 million (£31 million). Increased research spending of £13.2 million led to increased annual losses of £8.7 million (£7.6 million).

## Dorman appointed

BT and AT&T have appointed David Dorman, former chief executive of Pacific Bell, the US telecoms company, to run their new \$10 billion (£6 billion) international joint venture. Mr Dorman, 45, is currently chairman and chief executive of PointCast, the company that provides broadcast news on the Internet. It is the combination of telecommunications and Internet experience that has won him one of the top jobs in international telecommunications. The new venture will include all the international operations of BT and AT&T.

## MFI sees sales slump

MFI FURNITURE yesterday revealed the extent of the trading problems that precipitated the departure of John Randall as chief executive last week. Sales at UK stores were down 20 per cent on last year in the four months to March 1. This was partly due to the company moving away from sales of small household goods. But sales of continuing products, mainly kitchens and bedrooms, were also down a steep 12.5 per cent in the same period. Total sales were down 13 per cent in the period, with total continuing product sales down 6 per cent.

## Vehicle numbers fall

COMMERCIAL vehicle (CV) registrations in February fell 43.6 per cent to 12,462, the Society of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said yesterday. Every sector of the CV industry was down year-on-year. Registrations of light 4x4 utility vehicles fell 59.4 per cent to just 480. CV registrations so far this year are 27.4 per cent lower than for the first two months of last year. The SMMT blamed the March registration plate change and uncertainty over vehicle excise duty ahead of next week's Budget.

## Eurostar cuts passenger aim

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROSTAR, the international train service, has given up its "unrealistic" target of increasing passenger numbers beyond ten million a year after seeing operating losses still running at £90 million.

New management brought in last year to rescue the loss-making service has formally abandoned the founder company's original growth forecasts and is concentrating instead on revenue increases.

Although Eurostar cut operating losses last year by £40 million from the £130 million of 1997, it said that heavy discounting of tickets will be more limited in future. However, management is optimistic of breaking even by 2005.

Eurostar passengers increased by 6 per cent to 6.3 million last year, and revenues rose by 29 per cent to £350 million. The company, which has been separated from the Channel Tunnel rail consortium, and is now run by National Express and British Airways, said that the revenue rise came on the back of significant growth in business traffic, especially on the London-Brussels route.

The company says that it is now reaching a yield per passenger of £62, well up on the £39 low in 1997, when prices were heavily discounted. Hamish Taylor, Eurostar managing director, said: "The passenger targets that had been set were totally unrealistic and it has been demoralising to staff to see that we are nowhere near those levels."

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Hamish Taylor, Eurostar managing director, said: "The passenger targets that had been set were totally unrealistic and it has been demoralising to staff to see that we are nowhere near those levels."

## BAA agrees Eurotunnel shops deal

By CARL MORTISHED

BAA has taken up the challenge to turn the Eurotunnel terminals at Dover and Calais into airport-style shopping malls. The owner of Heathrow and Gatwick has agreed a contract worth about £100 million per year to take over the management of Eurotunnel's existing shops and extend the retailing space.

BAA will operate the retail facilities through World Duty Free on a profit sharing basis with Eurotunnel.

Brian Collie, BAA's retail director, said the UK and French terminal shops would generate about £100 million of revenue, assuming that duty-free retailing was abolished, as planned, on June 30. Eurotunnel generates about £190 million a year from its shops.

## Pressure on oil explorers

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S struggling independent oil explorers will come under greater pressure to merge with rivals or sell out when the Oil Exploration & Production sector is abolished from the FTSE stock market indices.

FTSE International plans to fold the oil explorers into an enlarged oil sector where the seven British independents will be dwarfed by two multinationals, BP Amoco and Shell Transport & Trading. The seven E&P stocks are together worth just over £3 billion, compared with a combined value of £116 billion for BP Amoco and Shell.

The change will make it increasingly difficult for E&P stocks to attract investor interest. Caroline Cook, analyst at

BT Alex Brown, said: "With no stocks in the FTSE 100 index, interest in the upstream looks set to wane."

Companies such as Lomo and Enterprise Oil, currently in merger talks, may come under pressure to pay more dividends. FTSE International said the sector was too small to justify its continued existence.

The change is part of a radical overhaul to bring the FTSE into line with pan-European indices.

The All-share index has changed almost beyond recognition over the past two decades. In 1978, it boasted sectors such as Toys and Games, Textiles, Shipping, Hire Purchase, Mining Finance, Discount Houses and Overseas Traders.

## Grocery bills to increase

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SUPERMARKET customers can expect to see their bills continue to rise despite the latest price war after evidence emerged that manufacturers of branded goods have been raising their prices.

Archie Norman, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that certain manufacturers have been pushing up prices by between 5 and 8 per cent over the past three months. Lever Brothers, the producers of Persil washing powder, said it is introducing rises averaging 3.2 per cent, its first price increases in a year.

One food retailing analyst said he expects prices to begin edging higher. "There is some seasonal food inflation and the manufacturers price rises to take into account."

## Arnault offers deal to Gucci

By FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has offered to call a truce with rival Gucci.

M. Arnault, who has 34.4 per cent of Gucci, has offered not to buy more shares if it allows an LVMH-nominated director to join its supervisory board.

Gucci, however, said LVMH had failed to allay its fears that M. Arnault could still take control of the company without paying for a full takeover. The negotiations came after M. Arnault tried to sue Gucci for issuing new shares which have neutralised any voting powers his stake could command. On Wednesday, an Amsterdam court told the two they should try to negotiate. It froze M. Arnault's voting rights and those of Gucci's new shares, asking them to return on April 22 if nothing is agreed.

## Knives are out over dinner

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, formerly the advertising agency of choice for Mrs Thatcher's administration, has found itself embroiled in a scandal that threatens the stability of the New Zealand Government (writes Jason Nisbet).

On August 31 last year Kevin Roberts, chief executive

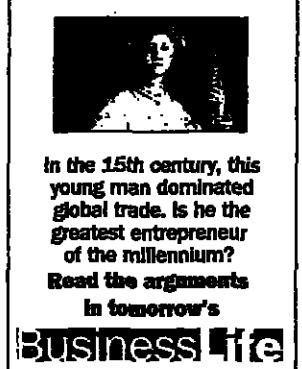
of Saatchi & Saatchi, was in New Zealand and had dinner with Jenny Shipley, the country's Prime Minister.

The two met the next day, and a few weeks later the New Zealand tourist board won a massive increase in its budget at a time when most other public services were facing cuts.

Most of this budget increase is being devoted to a NZ\$30 million (about £10 million) advertising campaign, run by Saatchi & Saatchi.

Mr Shipley has faced calls for her resignation in the New Zealand Parliament over what is being called "Dinnergate".

The country's equivalent of the National Audit Office has launched an investigation. Mr Roberts and Mrs Shipley have denied there were links between the dinner and the funding increase. They say they are old friends from when Mr Roberts lived in New Zealand.



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	Buy	Sell
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Austria Sch	21.43	19.77
Belgium Fr	63.10	58.14
Canada \$	2.57	2.39
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9031	0.8316
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.74
Egypt £	5.70	5.09
Finland Mk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	594	566
Hong Kong \$	13.09	12.09
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17951	12951
Ireland	1.2240	1.1350
Israel Sh	10.66	9.70
Italy Lit	3051	2814
Japan Yen	213.81	196.28
Malaysia	0.672	0.613
Netherlands Gld	3.463	3.168
New Zealand \$	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.37	12.43
Portugal Esc	310.26	288.23
Spain Ptas	206.58	238.79
Sweden Kr	14.10	13.00
Switzerland Fr	2.514	2.296
Turkey Lira	594159	554967
USA \$	1.715	1.572

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# And now, not a word from our sponsor



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Today the Dome will echo with joyful celebrations. Panfairs will sound and new sponsors will be revealed. Scorpions will be assured that the money is veritably pouring down the Thames to Greenwich and that the Dome's demands on the public purse will not exceed the original budget. Mr Blair's man on the case, his old friend Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has declared categorically that the target of £150 million in commercial sponsorship will be reached.

But, when it comes to negotiating sponsorship deals, the New Millennium Experience Company has not been in the strongest of positions. In fact, it has become increasingly desperate, a fact not wasted on the commercial organisations on the other side of the negotiating table. They are not all buying their place in the Dome publicity with hard cash.

The Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, has already voiced his doubts over whether the Dome's sums will add up. An analysis of the sponsorship arrangements would be unlikely to provide him with comfort. For the figures that are being broadcast do not all represent new money destined for getting the Dome up and running. Much of the apparently pledged funds are headed for promotional campaigns up and down the country, which may not be so far removed from the sort of promotional efforts that the organisations regularly undertake.

The Dome accounts do allow £50 million for Dome-related millennium projects around the country. Maybe that money was always destined to come off the £150 million sponsorship target. But that would leave at least two-thirds of the sponsorship money heading towards Greenwich and that does not seem to be the case.

There is a degree of cynicism on the subject which has prompted John Redwood, the Opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry, to table some probing questions. Among them, he might like to ask why Standed is to be the millennium airport rather than the one down in Docklands. Could it be that BAA had determined to spend £12 million on the airport anyway? Well, now that money is part of the £6 million proclaimed as BAA sponsorship. In fact, just £3 million is going to the Dome: the remaining £3 million will sponsor the Millennium Youth Games.

Marks & Spencer is a £12 million sponsor. That breaks down into just £6 million for Greenwich and £6 million for the Children's Promise project, a worthy fundraising effort but not one that will fund the Dome. British Aerospace is another £6 million sponsor, which is only committing £3 million to Greenwich.

The companies are not to be blamed for squeezing the best possible deals out of the organisers. They have decided, or been persuaded, in some cases even by Mr Blair himself, that they should back the big project. But they are being careful with their cash. Does advertising in the Dome guide count as sponsorship? It just might. In which case, Sir John has reason to fear for the public purse.

## Euro's nightmare scenario unfolds

Euro's nightmare scenario has not taken long to unfold. After just two months, Wim Duisenberg has felt obliged to concede that the economies so painfully corseted together by having to meet the Maastricht convergence rules already seem to be diverging once more. While countries such as Ireland and Spain benefit to an embarrassing degree from the big cuts from their previous inter-

est rates, euroland's German powerhouse appears to be drifting ineluctably into a recession.

Mr Duisenberg is indulging in a classic piece of English understatement when he says that the German slowdown complicates monetary policy. Whatever may happen in the future, it is plain that a key argument of the euro's critics is correct. No single interest rate is yet suitable for the whole of the eurozone.

Oskar Lafontaine's call for "a policy mix for growth" has certainly gained credibility from the revelation that the German economy shrank by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. Compare the slight rise in the worse-placed UK economy. Asia and Russia are hurting an economy where manufacturing still matters.

The ECB argues that Germany's troubles are structural, not cyclical, in order to justify its resistance to German bullying. Emphasising independence is clearly a vital plank in building ECB credibility.

A glance at the foreign ex-

changes shows that there is a long way to go. An 8 per cent drop against the dollar and 5 per cent against sterling was not what the euroland fathers had in mind for the first two months.

The bickering has not helped. Mr Duisenberg understandably called on politicians to help steady the ship and rebuild confidence in the new currency. The thought remains, not just in Herr Lafontaine's mind, that if it were not for the euro, the Bundesbank would be cutting rates now.

Supporting structural changes must take time. Strong nerves will be needed if the first serious challenge is not to blight the new currency permanently. But entrenched positions should be avoided.

Another pressure point will come in two weeks' time. Next month's ECB meetings look more crucial. By then the European Commission should have slashed growth forecasts for the region as a whole. That will give France and Germany ammunition to intensify pressure on the

ECB to cut rates. They should not use it. At this stage the ECB is likely to delay a cut too long if it feels it would otherwise be giving in. Whatever it does, the resulting policy will cause trouble for some part or another of euroland, whose economies seem destined to diverge for some time.

## Rolls-Royce and Robins reliant

There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, that has Sir Ralph Robins, the chairman of Rolls-Royce plc, the aero engineer, visiting an Eastern potentate. Sir Ralph arrives, only to be quizzed about life in the luxury car trade.

If he had been interested in truly world-class products, the royal would have done his homework and asked about aircraft engines instead. While Rolls-Royce cars live off a reputation earned decades ago, Rolls-Royce plc is about here and now.

Next year, 80 per cent of deliveries should be designs born in the past decade. In an industry dominated by the eternal success of the Boeing 747, this is impressive. Rolls has taken currency fluctuations on the chin. Neither does John Rose, the chief executive, waste time moaning about

interest rates nor the productivity levels of the British workforce. His commitment to keeping the UK an aerospace powerhouse cannot be questioned.

Yet, despite wrenching market share from Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, Rolls is still the subject of suspicion in some quarters of the City. Analysts seem determined to find fault, some suggesting Rolls is selling engines too cheaply in the hope of a profit on spares and repairs, others even carping that Rolls might make such good engines that they will destroy their own aftermarket for spares and maintenance. Rolls's response is to let the figures tell the truth.

The company yesterday met its target of double-digit earnings growth. If it can do so again next year, investors might be forced to acknowledge that the company is doing something right.

## Nott done

WHEN Sir John Nott took on the chairmanship of Hillsdown six years ago, the hope was that the former Defence Secretary would rapidly refine the extraordinary bundle of businesses that Sir Harry Solomon had assembled. Not quite. He waited until last year to demerge the housebuilder, Fairview, and Terranova chilled foods, driven to action by the failure of takeover talks with Unigate. Now Sir John is moving on, Hillsdown still combines furniture, poultry and Chivers jams. A dog's breakfast.

## Williams in danger of FTSE exit

By PAUL DURMAN

WILLIAMS, the security and fire protection group, is in danger of losing its place in the FTSE 100 list of Britain's leading companies.

Concern that Williams will shortly lose the support of index-tracking funds contributed to a 16½p fall in its share price yesterday to 348½p. The company, one of the star performers of the 1980s, is now worth £2.5 billion — making it substantially smaller than EMAP, Energis, Misys and South African Breweries, all of which are currently outside the FTSE 100.

Williams has recast itself as a service group, and yesterday pointed to growth of 21 per cent in sales and 24 per cent in profits from its security systems and service group. Roger Carr, chief executive, plans that service businesses should grow from 40 to 60 per cent of the group over the next two years. Some analysts remain sceptical. One said: "As ever with

Williams, there's a quite interesting 'jam tomorrow' story. But fund managers are less trusting than they were ten years ago."

Underlying operating profits improved by 6 per cent to £302 million last year. The £170 million Williams made on the sale of its DIY fillers and coatings to ICI and of its NuTone business in the US enabled it to increase pre-tax profits from £254 million to £462.5 million.

Williams is expected to receive another £300 million from the flotation of Robbia-lac, its Portuguese paint company, and of its regional paint companies in the US.

The group said its continuing businesses, which include Yale locks, Chubb alarm systems and Kidde fire extinguishers, increased sales by 6 per cent and profits by 11 per cent at constant currencies. A final dividend of 10.04p a share lifts the total by 31 per cent to 16.29p.

## Nott to step down at Hillsdown

By ROBERT COLE

SIR JOHN NOTT, the former Tory Defence Secretary, is to retire from Hillsdown Holdings, the troubled food group (See Commentary, this page).

Sir John has been at the helm of Hillsdown for nearly six years, during which time the sprawling conglomerate built by Sir Harry Solomon, his predecessor, has been dismembered. Sir John will be replaced by a non-executive chairman, Peter Jacobs, latterly chief executive of healthcare provider BUPA.

Hillsdown yesterday reported a fall in underlying pre-tax profits from £100.5 million to £80.2 million. Poor conditions in the poultry business were blamed for the decline.

## Pay-TV merger is off

By RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

PLANS for a £14 billion merger of BSkyB and France's Canal Plus, Europe's two biggest pay-television operators, have been abandoned.

Two serious problems quickly emerged. One was disagreement over who should run the merged entity and the different management styles of the French and of the Americans, Britons and Australians who run BSkyB.

The second was the position of News International, owner of The Times and 40 per cent owner of BSkyB. A merger with Canal Plus would have diluted News International's BSkyB stake. EU regulations also needed to be satisfied.

## Elementis sees tough trading

By MARTIN BARROW

ELEMENTIS, the specialty chemicals company that emerged from the restructuring of Harrison & Crosfield, yesterday gave warning that the difficult trading conditions of 1998 had continued into the first two months of the current year and were unlikely to improve in the short-term.

Lyndon Cole, chief executive, said: "We are under no illusions as to the competitive conditions we face, particularly given the uncertainty over the outlook for the global economy."

The company yesterday reported a rise in operating profits from continuing operations to £51.5 million in 1998, from £44.7 million in the previous year. Sales from continuing operations rose to £534.2

million, from £471.5 million. Adjusted earnings per share were 9p, up from 8.8p previously. The total dividend is lifted to 3p a share, from 3.6p, with a final 3p.

Elementis has emerged from 18 months of restructuring, during which the company has divested itself of interests in seven non-core businesses, raising £626 million. The company has returned £402 million of capital to its shareholders and spent £277.8 million on the acquisition of Rheox, a specialty chemicals company.

Although the restructuring was designed to unlock shareholder value, the shares have not performed well. Yesterday they rose 1½p to 75½p, compared with 177p in mid-1998.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

## Albright reacts well to takeover speculation

REVISED speculative buying in heavy trading hoisted Albright & Wilson 4p to 109p. Almost 13 million shares changed hands with talk in the Square Mile suggesting a bid of 125p a share is on the way. That would value the specialty chemicals group at £391 million.

Several large parcels of shares went through in late trading, including 2.28 million at 102p, 1.37 million at 103p, and 900,000 at 103p.

The speculators say the bid will come from across the Channel where rival chemical-maker Rhodia is flexing its corporate muscle after its takeover of Rhone-Poulenc. Williams certainly looks vulnerable, having seen its shares tumble from 207p a couple of years ago.

Brokers say trading conditions remain difficult and Albright & Wilson may struggle to meet the earnings target of 11p a share that has been forecast.

Share prices generally slipped some useful gains but closed below the best of the day in spite of the strong opening lead for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York where investors became excited by news of the link-up between computer companies IBM and Dell.

The FTSE 100 index, up almost 70 points at one stage, eventually closed with a gain of 53.1 at 6,014.4. Much of the interest was concentrated among blue chips with the rise in the FTSE 250 index restricted to 7.9 at 5,314.5.

Total turnover was 1.14 billion shares, but investors remained cautious ahead of last night's decision on European rates, today's US economic data and next week's Budget.

The market seemed unimpressed with final results from Williams, down 16p to 348p, and it now seems inevitable that the group will lose its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies when the steering committee meets next week. Pre-tax profits were up, but boosted by an exceptional profit of £176 million from the disposal of several businesses.

Williams, whose chief executive is Roger Carr, said the results reflected the benefits of the Chubb acquisition.

Others under threat of losing their place as top 100 constituents are Tomkins, down 5p to 215p, Billiton, 1p cheaper at 133p, and Safeway, 3p cheaper at 252p. They are



Roger Carr saw Williams shares retreat despite a profit rise. It is likely that the company will lose its FTSE 100 place

likely to be replaced by South African Breweries, 10p stronger at 450p, EMAP, up 8p to 514.15, and Missys, down 20p to 617p.

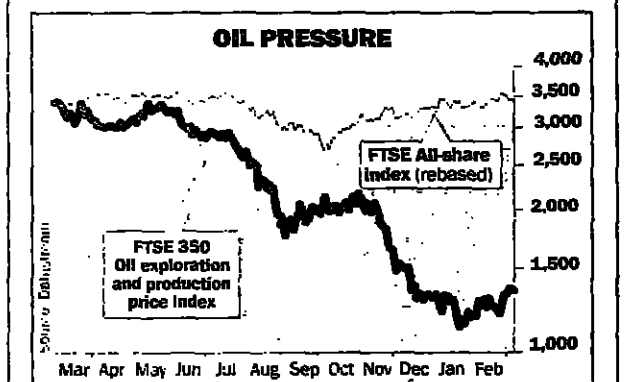
Some bearish comments from HSBC Securities, the broker, has raised its target price to £22.80 and Goldman Sachs is said to be positive on the shares.

The disappointing numbers

expiries. It was also doubtful that products currently in the pipeline could deliver earnings growth.

HSBC rose 8p to £18.04 after some bullish comments. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, has raised its target price to £22.80 and Goldman Sachs is said to be positive on the shares.

The disappointing numbers



OIL exploration and production companies have been hard hit by the collapse in the oil price; so much so that they will cease to exist as a sector from April.

From then on, they will be lumped back in the wider oil and gas sector that already includes the likes of BP Amoco, up 45p to 902p, and Shell, 18p dearer at 349p.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, gave warning that extreme oil price pressure may precipitate further corporate change, as the stocks attempt to maintain investor interest.

Yesterday share prices

picked up with investors convinced that this month's Opec meeting will thrash out a solution to production quotas.

The problem has become so acute, they argue, that some members no longer have a choice.

Gains were seen in Enterprise, 10p to 285p, Lasmo, 7p to 129p, and Cairn Energy, 5p to 100p. British Borneo rallied 10p to 115p.

from PowerGen, down 19p to 767p, also had a knock-on effect on rival National Power, 15p off at 487p. Dresdner Kleinwort, the broker, has reduced its recommendation from "hold" to "reduce".

High-flying Select Appointments retreated 3p to 87p with C.K. Miles, finance director, unloading 100,000 shares at 88p. It reduces his holding to 38,328. The price has come up from a low of 35p since October.

Britannic finished with a rise of 19p to £10.84 as Harold Contam, chairman, picked up 2,000 shares at £10.90. It takes his total holding to 3,500 shares, or less than 1 per cent.

Druid Group was 22p dearer at £13.75 after John Pocock, managing director, sold 75,000 shares at £13.50. He still holds 679,665, or almost 3 per cent.

Tandem firmed up to 24p after Harry Turpin, a director, sold 2.29 million shares, or 2.4 per cent, at 3p. John Hanson, a private shareholder, has sold 4.6 million shares, or 4.9 per cent, for an undisclosed sum.

Profit-taking left Alexander Russell 51p cheaper at 117p. The group confirmed it had received a bid approach last week. Since then, nothing has emerged to excite the speculators.

Computerland continued to reel from this week's profits warning with the price closing 114p down at 89p.

Tadpole Technology enjoyed one of the best performances of the day, climbing 4p to 134p. The group is carrying out tests with the water companies on a new portable information system that is expected to be a money spinner for the group.

GILT-EDGED: Dealers reported an inversion of the curve yield as shorts recovered some of Wednesday's losses stemming from the absence of an interest rate cut, while longs gave up ground.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt eased 4p to £115.43 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 44p to £144, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 3p dearer at £106.07.

NEW YORK: Shares were sharply higher in late morning trade after news of the IBM and Dell technology pact boosted the troubled high-tech industry sector. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 158.65 higher at 9,434.53.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
US Dow Jones	9439.33 (+158.65)
S&P Composite	7244.29 (+16.59)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14184.25 (+130.45)
Hong Kong:	
Hong Kong	9024.74 (+21.34)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1519.97 (+3.24)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2885.53 (+4.80)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4078.72 (+18.53)
Singapore:	
SEAC	1433.41 (+17.00)
Brussels:	
Brussels	3282.98 (+11.43)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4067.59 (+8.83)
Zurich:	
SWX Index	1336.69 (+18.99)
London:	
FT 100	3742.3 (+14.10)
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## RECENT ISSUES

Accum Income Fund	101p
Close Bros Div VCT	100p
Enhanced Zero Trust	100p
Garden Properties	7p
Johnston & Co Div Pl	108p
Japan Enterprise Inc	99p
Marine Petroleum	28p
NASA Outlines	11p
South African Breweries	456p

## MAJOR CHANGES

Brancote (p10)	1p
Oxford Biomedica (p15)	2p
Peptide Therapeutics (p78)	17p

## RISKS

Stock	Chng	Chng
London	21p	+35
Shell	118p	+19
Albright & Wilson	109p	+14
Bec Retail Sys	131p	+13
Deals Stores	183p	+17
De Sarno	115p	+10
Sanderson Group	203p	+17
Campania Corp	175p	+15
Torvalds	142p	+12
STV	217p	+7
De Vito	230p	+18
Renshaw	370p	+27
Johnson & Co	147p	+10
Royal Bank of Canada	218p	+10
Bernardo	307p	+17
GON	954p	+54
Enterprise	288p	+18
De Sarno	115p	+10
Shell	348p	+18
BBA	420p	+22
Bowthorpe	401p	+21
De Sarno	115p	+10
BP Amoco	90p	+45
Ocean Group	841p	+108
Ang Am Gold	2319p	+108
Coltham	514p	+35

## FALLS

Stock	Chng	Chng
Estates Agency	450p	-100
Computer UK	118p	-11
CompuLink UK	117p	-15
Russell (A)	117p	-15
Williams	348p	-16
Miles	617p	-26
De Sarno	115p	-10
BP Amoco	90p	-45
Ocean Group	841p	-108
Ang Am Gold	2319p	-108
Coltham	514p	-35

## INSURED FOR TOMORROW?

IS ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE really short-changing shareholders with its plan to return £750 million of capital via a special 48p dividend? According to critics, R&S, by combining the payment with an 11-for-10 share consolidation, gets to buy 142 million shares at a 9 per cent discount. The shares shot up to 587p yesterday, but are being retired at 527p, so it looks like daylight robbery, much as it looked to Halifax shareholders when the former building society initiated a similar scheme.

A more conventional buyback arrangement could have been effected at a narrower discount. However, while it looks like robbery, it surely is not because no cash is going outside the business. The cake may be changing shape, but it remains a special dividend included — the same-sized cake.

That argument is sterile. Attention instead

should focus on whether R&S management is wise to shrink its capital base. Once the special dividend is paid in June, R&S will have returned £1.25 billion to shareholders in 12 months, and more may be on the way.

The cash repatriation policy is welcome enough, not least because the share price reacts positively — as it did yesterday. But after more than a decade of share price underperformance charged for general insurance policies, it is operationally beguiling to the general side. Yes, last year was dreadful for claims losses, but for the first time in living memory there looks to be a chance that general insurance revenues will pick up, and to take advantage of the growth, R&S needs capital. Give management the benefit of the doubt for now, however. Hold the shares.

## Williams

IT IS easy to sympathise with Roger Carr's frustration at Williams's poor share price. The group has great assets in the form of the Vale and Kidde, and it is successfully building faster growing service businesses such as running alarm monitoring centres. Why won't the City see the much brighter future?

The trouble is that Williams has spent years casting aside its conglomerate past and presenting itself in new, fashionable lights. Yet nothing has worked. Why should the current emphasis on services instead of manufacturing be any different? After all, Williams's locks and fire extinguishers remain a long way from the innovative niches that have made Hays a star of the business services sector.

Organic profit growth from Williams's security systems

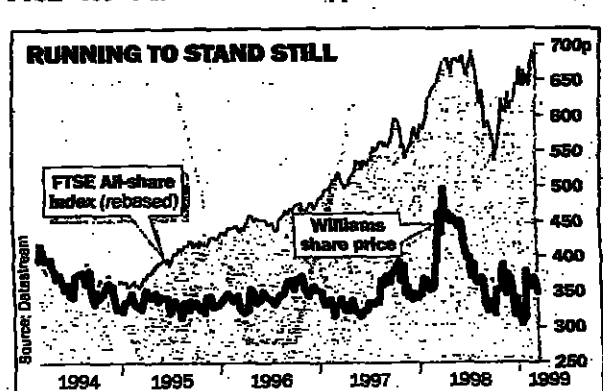
## PowerGen

POWERGEN has had a tricky few months. First it has had to cope with greater competition as the privatised duopoly with National Power has gradually broken down. Its forced divestment of two power stations will cut into profit. Secondly, the relatively mild weather has reduced demand for PowerGen's mainstay product. Thirdly, the weather has knocked the payments earned by generators to keep their power stations on standby. Fourthly, one of PowerGen's power stations has been out of action for a sustained period.

This is all pretty bleak but simple bad luck darkens the picture. Weather cannot be legislated for and the station breakdown can be blamed more on misfortune than on mismanagement.

Competition in generating is less easily dismissed. That is likely to continue to stiffen. Moreover, the regulatory

framework for electricity trading is also to be overhauled, which will reduce further the incentives offered to the generators' standby capacities. But the cash raised selling capacity has enabled the firm to diversify. There will also be more cash — maybe as much as £1 billion — coming from further power station sales. This could fund more expansion or, possibly, special dividends. Hold the stock.



## Mirror Group

REEL forward four or five months and it is likely that both Trinity and RIM will receive regulatory clearance for their "warmate" bids for Mirror Group. In the case of Trinity it seems that disposals will be required, but that is unlikely to stymie its interest.

Mirror is currently trading at 200p. The current price is exactly the same as the cash offer, now lapsed, from RIM. Merger conversations with Trinity involved a shares and

cash deal worth about 210p. Both players are going to have to come up with significantly more money if their acquisition ambitions are to bear fruit. Mirror is far from disintegrating as yesterday's results demonstrated. Going forward it has a tidier strategy: concentrating on publishing and getting rid of assets such as the 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media. That can only support efforts to bid up the price not least because Mirror can suggest it has a credible independent future.

Mirror shares hit 250p last year when Axel Springer was nosing around. Serious post-regulatory clearance talking will take place around the 250p level but could go higher. It is a long, slow game and the impatient will be forgiven for wanting to cash in their chips by selling in the market. The likely upside, however, suggests holding on is the best current policy.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

## COMMODITIES

## LIFTS

COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## ROBUSTA COFFEE

ROBUSTA COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
ROBUSTA COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
ROBUSTA COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
ROBUSTA COFFEE	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)

WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
WHITE SUGAR (NO. 11)	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## MEAT &amp; LIVESTOCK

MEAT & LIVESTOCK	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
MEAT & LIVESTOCK	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
MEAT & LIVESTOCK	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
MEAT & LIVESTOCK	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE OPTIONS

LIFE OPTIONS	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE OPTIONS	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
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LIFE OPTIONS	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE OPTIONS	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE WHEAT

LIFE WHEAT	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE WHEAT	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE WHEAT	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE WHEAT	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE BARLEY

LIFE BARLEY	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE BARLEY	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE BARLEY	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE BARLEY	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE POTATO

LIFE POTATO	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE POTATO	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE POTATO	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE POTATO	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE RUBBER

LIFE RUBBER	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE RUBBER	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE RUBBER	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
LIFE RUBBER	Mar	109.45	May	109.45

## LIFE LIME

LIFE LIME	Mar	109.45	May	109.45
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LIFE LIME	Mar	109.45	May	109.45



# South Africa's corporate chicken run may turn into a turkey shoot

The exodus to London could be an exposure too far, says  
**Jon Ashworth**

During the apartheid years, London was big on Marxist exiles and light on home-grown South African delights such as Castle Lager. Few would admit to holidaying in South Africa and no one supported the Springboks.

How times change. Today, the freedom fighters have gone home. Londoners can't move for South African labels and Cape Town has become the destination of choice. South African household names such as Anglo American and South African Breweries (SAB) have started springing up on the London Stock Exchange. For the estimated 300,000 to 400,000 South Africans living and working in Britain, this makes for a curious sense of déjà vu.

SAB, which brews Castle Lager, is the latest in a line of big South African blue chip names to seek a primary listing in London. Anglo American makes its London debut in May, and Old Mutual, the Cape Town-based insurance group, could follow in June, pending approval from members, who vote on demutualisation on March 11.

All three are expected to win a place in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares, following a lead set by Gencor, the mining group, which spun off its base metals interests into Billiton in July 1997. Billiton, arrived with a bang, but has since seen its shares slide on weak metal prices, proving that membership of the FTSE 100 does not guarantee success.

The predominance of tracker funds enters demand for FTSE 100 shares, but some UK fund managers are less than thrilled about this enforced exposure to South Africa — technically an emerging market. Such is the dominance of the companies involved that an entire chunk of South Africa — at a stroke — is being relocated to London.

The feeling among "ordinary" South Africans, white and black, is that the big boys are bailing out. As one Johannesburg banker put it: "The economy has not been good in the last 12 to 18 months. The man in the street is saying: 'These guys are off to London and we are stuck here.' Among reasonably well-informed professionals, there is definitely a perception that these companies are getting out."

This, then, is a late-Nineties version of what used to be called the "chicken run". In the final years of Apartheid rule, white South Africans who emigrated were branded cowards for fleeing the coop.

As a student in South Africa in 1985, I remember the shock when a group of white businessmen broke ranks to meet African National Congress leaders in Lusaka. This was a time of extreme paranoia, when even a hint of subver-



Graham Mackay is sensitive to charges that SAB has deserted South Africa

sion could lead to your being arrested and detained without trial. The late Gavin Relfy of Anglo American, who led the contingent, became an enraged Pretoria's equivalent of "Hanoi Jane".

Business took the initiative then, and is doing the same again now, even if for economic rather than political reasons. With a selective loosening of foreign exchange controls, it was inevitable that Anglo and its bedfellows would go in search of new sources of capital.

Some see parallels with Hong Kong, from where Jardine Matheson moved its domicile to Bermuda in 1984 — the year Britain signed its agreement to hand back the colony to China. The listings of Jardine group companies were shifted to Singapore in 1995. The moves were greeted with anger in Beijing.

In London, South African companies have a stock market that is highly liquid and which gives them ready access to foreign pounds and dollars. Jan Newman, managing director of SG Hambros South Africa, said: "They are gaining efficiency in terms of raising capital and internationalising themselves."

Johannesburg has long been dominated by big-name players, such as SAB, Anglo American, Rembrandt and Gencor. Blocked from investing overseas, the big groups took stakes in each other, making for a notoriously illiquid stock market.

This is changing as companies unbuckle themselves, but not fast enough for some.

Gencor embarked on just such an unbundling exercise in the early 1990s, having off interests including Engen (the former Mobil oil in South Africa) and Sappi, the paper group. SAB is seeking to do the same, but remains typically South African in its diverse spread of holdings.

Money from all those Castle cans has been channelled into soft drinks, hotels and gaming and shopping centres. SAB owns Southern Sun, the hotels group built up by Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer. Southern Sun holds the local Holiday Inn franchise, has a 50 per cent stake in a casino operator, and owns nearly 20 per cent of

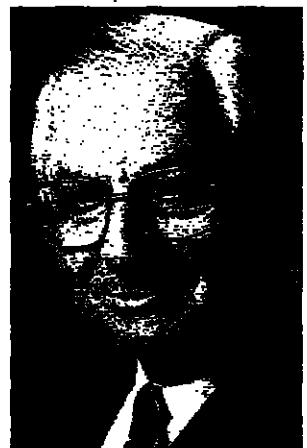
Edgars, a department store group.

Graham Mackay, SAB's group chief executive, is sensitive to charges that the company has deserted South Africa. "We would have languished in South Africa and lost our growth prospects," he said. "There will be a lot of deals in this industry and we either have to take part or be a spectator."

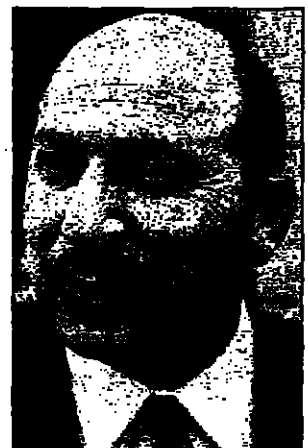
Anglo American is merging with Minorco, its Luxembourg-registered cousin, to create a £6 billion entity, Anglo American plc. Known for its gold, diamonds, platinum and coal, Anglo represents a broad cross-section of South African life. Its interests span forestry (Mondi), car assembly (Samsco), sugar (Tongaat-Hulett), construction



Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer, with Naomi Campbell, the supermodel



Relfy: met with ANC in 1985



Manuel: no guarantees

(LTA), financial services (FirstRand), explosives (AECI) and wine estates (Vergelegen). These are all household names in South Africa. The new-look Anglo will present itself as a global mining and natural resources company with related industrial activities. It is engaged in simplifying its arcane corporate structure, which is intimately bound up with De Beers, the diamonds group, and the interests of the Oppenheimer family.

Anglo says that the move to London will allow it to compete more effectively on the world stage and exploit new business opportunities. Listing particulars are due next month and dealings are expected to commence on May 25.

Old Mutual has negligible overseas interests, making this the most controversial of the newcomers. Fund managers have expressed unease about buying in a company so heavily exposed to South Africa. It has a token UK presence, owning two private client stockbrokers, Capel-Cure Myers and Albert E Sharp, and selling unit trusts, but relies on South Africa for 90 per cent of its sales.

Other companies with their eye on London include Barlows (industrial), Del Monte (food), Sasol (oil-from-coal) and a clutch of IT companies: Dimension Data (Didata), Comparex, Datatec and Exchange.

Interesting as all this is, one cannot escape the feeling that the only winners in this scenario

are the companies themselves. While Anglo and the rest load up on pounds and dollars, shareholders back home remain trapped by restrictive exchange controls.

South Africa's economy is in poor shape, with little sign of the much anticipated foreign investment. Crime is as big a problem as ever, and Nelson Mandela's departure from political life heralds a fresh period of uncertainty. Elections are due on June 2.

There is also no guarantee that Pretoria will relax its grip indefinitely. Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, has said that applicants will not automatically be granted the right to move to London. Those that do — like Billiton before them — may find their confidence in tracker funds has been somewhat overdone. The great corporate chicken run may yet turn into a turkey shoot.

## Outdoor team-building event is pleasing clients

From Mr Andrew Finan

Sir, *The Times* recently claimed ("Dramatic change to art of team building", *Business Life*, February 6) that organisations engaging in practical management development were turning away from outdoor team-building events to more artistic pursuits such as barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare. Our statistics show otherwise.

Our company organises the Securicor Challengers Trophy, the UK's largest inter-business outdoor training event, and last year the number of teams taking part in the event grew by 56 per cent to 88 teams. This year we already have over 70 companies booked and are heading for a sell-out event by June. The number of women taking part last year grew by 270 per cent.

Our success lies in delivering a balance of physical, intel-

lectual and practical challenges that are best tackled as a team and are within the reach of anyone who is reasonably fit. The formula works for our clients. Over 85 per cent of companies come back the following year, while 100 per cent say they reach their corporate objectives. We count Microsoft, BT, Lloyds TSB, Cable & Wireless, Cisco, BP and Orange among our customers.

Barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare might be just fine for some. However, if corporations wish to build strong teams then outdoor management training offers proven benefits and is certainly more popular.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW FINAN  
(Director, Challenger UK Marketing, London, Sponsorship Bureau International),  
Grosvenor Gardens House,  
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens,  
London SW1W 0BS.

## Programme sponsorship continues

From the Director of Sponsorship, Carlton Television

Sir, Contrary to the article which appeared in the Media section of *The Times* on February 19, *The Sun* is continuing its sponsorship of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* for the next series.

Your remarks on ITV increasing the price are also incorrect: the levels of investment required for the show have not changed since it was first transmitted last September.

However, the relationship

with *The Sun* has changed. In the first series *The Sun* was partner in assisting ITV to promote the show to potential participants. Since that time, *The Sun* has continued its association with the programme as a broadcast sponsor and has purchased the right to run its own interactive game through the paper.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PROSSER,  
Director of Sponsorship,  
Carlton Television,  
101 St Martin's Lane,  
London WC2.

## Developers declare open Wharfare

From the Chairman of The British Land Company

Sir, We were amused to see the comment attributed to George Iacobescu, chief executive of the Canary Wharf Group, in *The Times* of March 2, that "I looked at the design of Plantation House (a City development). What happens if someone wants 700,000 sq ft instead of 500,000 sq ft?" Send them

along, Mr Iacobescu, send them along — and we will be entirely happy to provide them with 700,000 sq ft on our site in the heart of the City, well away from the boom-Docks!

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN RITBLAT,  
Chairman,  
The British Land Company,  
10 Cornwall Terrace,  
Regent's Park,  
London NW1 4QP.

## BA action could resurrect old names

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Your report on March 1 that Virgin Atlantic is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft went on to say that to stem its market loss BA had begun an internal restructuring which would entail dividing the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and long-haul businesses.

Might I presume to suggest British European Airways

and British Overseas Airways Corporation as being easily identifiable names for these two divisions which can be abbreviated to BEA and BOAC respectively for incorporation within the company logo.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD GRIFFITH,  
68 Grove Park Terrace,  
Chiswick,  
London W4 3JL.

## Backtrack

RICHARD KALMS, son of Dixons chairman Sir Stanley Kalms, is poised to rekindle his working relationship with the electrical retailer — nine years after he quit as corporate affairs director to plough his own furrow.

ITIS, a privately owned traffic information provider, has persuaded Kalms Jr to become a non-executive director alongside the former Tory Transport Minister, Steven Norris. His role will be to oversee the alliance announced yesterday between ITIS and Minorplan, the quaintly named maker of vehicle-management sys-

tems that is listed on AIM. Specifically, he will help ITIS to persuade Dixons to stock its products, which include security tracking devices for cars.

Since he left Dixons in 1990, Mr Kalms has spent most of his time at Union Pictures, a TV and film production company. But he sold out last year to set up his own Internet consultancy called Hi Technology Ventures. "I consider myself the personal Internet adviser to Sir Stanley Kalms," he joked. "I tell him which buttons to press." And, by the sound of it, which car-tracking devices to stock.

WILDE Septe, the City law firm, was celebrating on Monday night after its football team won the London Legal Football League, thus bringing to an end the dominance of Grays Inn, champions for the past four years. Wilde Septe clinched the title with a 2-0 win over Slaughter and May — a particular pleasure for centre-half Bruce Macleod, the firm's grandly titled director of know-how, who previously worked at Slaughter and May and was up against several former colleagues and team-mates.



"I don't like the sound of it"



## Arch rival?

I AM told that if there is one thing that William Hague hates it is Archie Norman reminding people that he once gave the Conservative leader a job.

But our Archie, who is not only chairman of Asda but also chief executive of the Tories (and apparently known to some at Central Office as "that Grocer"), cannot help himself. At the Retail Week conference yesterday he was at it again, confiding to the audience of several hundred: "I recruited him for a job once. I interviewed him at McKinsey and he worked for us as a consultant."

Norman went on to deny

that he harboured any ambitions to become Tory leader. A sure sign that he is gradually becoming more of a politician than a retailer.

## Cutting edge

NEWS reaches me that Sanyo, the giant Japanese electronics group, has developed a revolutionary new bread-cutting board called "Bread plus". This fine product is made from ABS plastic (whatever that is) and has cunningly designed sides to hold a loaf of bread in place while you cut it. On its product website, Sanyo points out that the board is "Y2K compliant". So, for that matter, is my old bread board.

## Telling word

AT yesterday's Mirror Group presentation to analysts, new chief executive John Allwood was asked whether any further thought had been given to changing the name of the company. Just at that moment a mobile phone — that of Richard Dale of Salomon Smith Barney — went off, giving a fine rendition of the William Tell overture.

"We're thinking of calling it the William Tell Company," piped Allwood without missing a beat — prompting the

first round of applause for the Mirror Group from analysts for many a long year.

I HAD always assumed that Blooms of Bressingham, the garden centre chain owned by Flying Flowers, was named after its principal product. I couldn't have been more wrong. Yesterday's announcement that the firm is to be sold to a management buy-in team for £1.7 million informs me that Adrian Bloom, the gardening pioneer and the firm's founder, is to become honorary president of the new business.

DOMINIC WALSH

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Norman: same old story

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

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Assets & Liabilities		Assets & Liabilities	
Assets		Assets	
Current Assets		Current Assets	
Cash	20.29	U.S. Money Market	65.24
Accounts Receivable	1.88	U.S. Treasury	1.76
Inventory	44.89	The PostNet Inc.	1.76
Prepaid Expenses	1.30	Recurring Bill	111.79
Other Assets	0.28	Other Assets	100.42
Liabilities		Liabilities	
Current Liabilities		Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	47.48	Accounts Payable	721.08
Notes Payable	1.30	Notes Payable	4.30
Other Liabilities	29.63	Other Liabilities	0.11
Equity		Equity	
Common Stock	29.63	Common Stock	100.31
Retained Earnings	1.30	Retained Earnings	6.24
Other Equity	0.28	Other Equity	0.11
Total Assets	68.00	Total Assets	68.00
Total Liabilities & Equity	68.00	Total Liabilities & Equity	68.00

NUTRA L INC BALANCE OF SHEET LTD			
Period: 1 Jan 1988 to 31 Dec 1988			
Share Capital	240.00	240.00	0.00
Reserves	240.00	240.00	0.00
Current Assets	240.00	240.00	0.00
Current Liabilities	240.00	240.00	0.00
Fixed Assets	240.00	240.00	0.00
Fixed Liabilities	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Assets	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Liabilities	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Equity	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Income	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Loss	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Profit	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Expense	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Revenue	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Cost	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Income	240.00	240.00	0.00
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Net Loss	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Profit	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Expense	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Revenue	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Cost	240.00	240.00	0.00
Net Income	240.00	240.00	0.00

	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Operating Income	206.70	214.30	187.00	0.00	
Depreciation	123.78	141.40	140.00	1.50	
Loss on Sale	1.00	51.00	5.00	0.00	
Income Tax	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.00	1.06
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>177.48</b>	<b>152.70</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.06</b>

STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO.		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988	
Operating Income	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Depreciation	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Income Tax	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>

ROYAL LONDON UNIT TRUSTS LTD		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988	
Operating Income	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10
Depreciation	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10
Income Tax	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10	114.10
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>	<b>114.10</b>

STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO.		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988	
Operating Income	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Depreciation	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Income Tax	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>

STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO.		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988	
Operating Income	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Depreciation	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Income Tax	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>

STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO.		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988	
Operating Income	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Depreciation	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
Income Tax	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>12.30</b>

STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO.		1992		1991		1990	
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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1. General	25,262	27,483	1,300		
2. Special	25,262	27,483	1,300	0.36	
3. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
4. Total	25,262	27,483	1,300	0.36	
5. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
6. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
7. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
8. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
9. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
10. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
11. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
12. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
13. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
14. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
15. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
16. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
17. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
18. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
19. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
20. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
21. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
22. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
23. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
24. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
25. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
26. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
27. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
28. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
29. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
30. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
31. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
32. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
33. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
34. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
35. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
36. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
37. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
38. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
39. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
40. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
41. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
42. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
43. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
44. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
45. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
46. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
47. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
48. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
49. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
50. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
51. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
52. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
53. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
54. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
55. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
56. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
57. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
58. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
59. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
60. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
61. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
62. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
63. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
64. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
65. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
66. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
67. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
68. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
69. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
70. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
71. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
72. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
73. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
74. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
75. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
76. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
77. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
78. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
79. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
80. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
81. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
82. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
83. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
84. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
85. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
86. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
87. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
88. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
89. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
90. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
91. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
92. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
93. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
94. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
95. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
96. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
97. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
98. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
99. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		
100. Other	25,262	27,483	1,300		

FOR THE 100 Tels and Laysan TSS Data					
1. General	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
2. Special	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
3. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
4. Total	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
5. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
6. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
7. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
8. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
9. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
10. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
11. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
12. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
13. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
14. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
15. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
16. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
17. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
18. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
19. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
20. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
21. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
22. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
23. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
24. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
25. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
26. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
27. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
28. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
29. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
30. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
31. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
32. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
33. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
34. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
35. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
36. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
37. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
38. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
39. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
40. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
41. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
42. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
43. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
44. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
45. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
46. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
47. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
48. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
49. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
50. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
51. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
52. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
53. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
54. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
55. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
56. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
57. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
58. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
59. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
60. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
61. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
62. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
63. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
64. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
65. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
66. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
67. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
68. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
69. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
70. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
71. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
72. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
73. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
74. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
75. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
76. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
77. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
78. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
79. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
80. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
81. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
82. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
83. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
84. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
85. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
86. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
87. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
88. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
89. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
90. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
91. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
92. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
93. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
94. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
95. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
96. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
97. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
98. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
99. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
100. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		

1. General	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
2. Special	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
3. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
4. Total	511.58	549.73	37.15	0.37	
5. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
6. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
7. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
8. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
9. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
10. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
11. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
12. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
13. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
14. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
15. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
16. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
17. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
18. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
19. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
20. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
21. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
22. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
23. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
24. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
25. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
26. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
27. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
28. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
29. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
30. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
31. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
32. Other	511.58	549.73	37.15		
33. Other	511.58				

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17 MD	75.40	0.20	0.10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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COTTON AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS Ltd		COTTON AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS Ltd	
1931	1932	1933	1934
1935	1936	1937	1938
1939	1940	1941	1942
1943	1944	1945	1946
1947	1948	1949	1950
1951	1952	1953	1954
1955	1956	1957	1958
1959	1960	1961	1962
1963	1964	1965	1966
1967	1968	1969	1970
1971	1972	1973	1974
1975	1976	1977	1978
1979	1980	1981	1982
1983	1984	1985	1986
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1991	1992	1993	1994
1995	1996	1997	1998
1999	2000	2001	2002
2003	2004	2005	2006
2007	2008	2009	2010
2011	2012	2013	2014
2015	2016	2017	2018
2019	2020	2021	2022
2023	2024	2025	2026
2027	2028	2029	2030
2031	2032	2033	2034
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2191	2192	2193	2194
2195	2196	2197	2198
2199	2200	2201	2202
2203	2204	2205	2206
2207	2208	2209	2210
2211	2212	2213	2214
2215	2216	2217	2218
2219	2220	2221	2222
2223	2224	2225	2226
2227	2228	2229	2230
2231	2232	2233	2234
2235	2236	2237	2238
2239	2240	2241	2242
2243	2244	2245	2246
2247	2248	2249	2250
2251	2252	2253	2254
2255	2256	2257	2258
2259	2260	2261	2262
2263	2264	2265	2266
2267	2268	2269	2270
2271	2272	2273	2274

NORTH LIFE INVESTMENTS			
Equity Inc.	75.15	88.00	- 5.50 1.85
Accum.	692.00	626.00	- 1.50 0.37
Public	291.20	218.00	- 0.50 0.41
Accum.	87.00	103.00	+ 1.50 0.78
Other	117.0	115.30	- 1.70 0.50
NORTHWEST MUTUAL INV. SERVICES LTD.			
Equity Inc.	470.00	450.00	- 3.10 1.85
Accum.	844.40	695.50	- 4.20 1.80
Public	243.10	226.00	- 1.50 1.40
Accum.	310.40	330.00	+ 1.80 2.40
Other	114.80	122.00	+ 1.00 1.17
Equity Inc.	115.80	122.00	+ 1.50 2.40
Accum.	857.70	691.00	- 1.50 1.40
Public	78.40	70.40	- 12.10 6.40
Accum.	110.80	117.80	+ 1.50 1.25
Other	171.10	181.00	+ 9.10 1.80
Equity Inc.	42.90	48.00	+ 6.00 2.50
Accum.	573.00	500.00	- 0.80 1.00
Public	14.00	14.00	- 0.00 0.00
Accum.	275.60	250.10	- 2.10 0.15
Other	110.00	177.90	+ 43.40 7.40
PARADE SERVICE			
Equity Inc.	120.57	120.57	- 0.45 4.70
Accum.	147.40	147.40	- 0.00 0.00
Public	130.15	130.15	- 0.00 0.00
Accum.	18.20	36.20	+ 1.40 1.50
NORTHWEST MUTUAL INVESTMENT LTD.			
Equity Inc.	137.00	120.00	- 0.50 0.30
Accum.	114.00	116.17	+ 0.84 0.64
Public	55.04	55.00	- 0.47 5.30
Accum.	68.20	71.00	+ 0.80 0.80
Other	55.00	56.25	+ 0.40 0.40
NORTHWEST MUTUAL INVESTMENT LTD.			
Equity Inc.	74.00	72.07	- 0.28 1.50
Accum.	153.70	163.40	+ 1.10 1.77
Public	32.30	32.40	+ 0.04 1.80
Accum.	59.70	63.07	+ 0.07 1.60
Source: FT Information			
* Fund sponsored as DAB (Discontinued Annual Review)			
† Excluded from FT Information			
‡ Periodic charge deducted from capital @ 0.4%			



## Equities enjoy late flurry

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

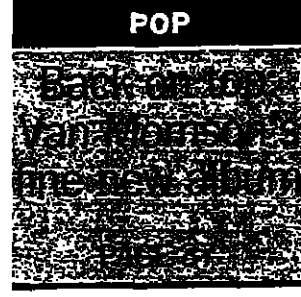
1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	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**MUSIC**  
Gidon Kremer  
takes his fiddle  
to the tango  
PAGE 35

# THE TIMES ARTS



## RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

### LONDON

**ANDRE PREVIN 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Show, glamour and classical music combine in equal measure in this concert where super-dad Kin Te Kanawa is joined by the high-profile conductor and pianist in songs by Mozart, Strauss and Dvorak. Barbican (0171-680 8891). Sunday, 7.30pm. £5

**TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM:** The Festival Hall's musical journey through the 20th century reaches the 1990s this year. In the first of two concerts the vocalists (from 7.30pm) Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a programme featuring three composers representing the globalised musical trends of the decade: Luciano Pavarotti, Tchaikovsky and John Adams. On Sunday (7.30pm) the London Sinfonietta and Voices under James Wood explore the theme of spirituality in music from Steve Reich and Jonathan Harvey. Festival Hall (0171-680 4342). £5

**THE WAY OF THE WORLD:** Sam Walters directs his company's comedy in Congreve's matchless comedy of manners. Orange Tree (0181-640 3633). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. £5

### ELSEWHERE

**MANCHESTER:** The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House plays operatic gems by Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Puccini and Wagner. Solstice include

### NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London  
House full, returns only. Some seats available. £ Seats at all prices

**SLAVY'S SHOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material and new clown, as well as his unforgettable break. Piccadilly Theatre (0171-389 1734).

**BLUE HEART:** Gary Churchill's pair of plays Heart's Desire and Blue Heart explore family disruption through tricks with words. Shaftesbury Theatre (0171-389 1734).

**THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE:** The STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY. Tony Christie's shocking account of the sequence of mistakes. Victoria Palace (0171-389 1734).

**THREE DAYS OF RAIN:** Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play. Robin Lahey, who directs this journey back to 1980. Donmar Warehouse (0171-389 1734). £5

### FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

### NEW RELEASES

**BELOVED (15):** Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by post-traumatic stress, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's over-the-top film, however, gets inside the suffering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

**FESTIN (15):** Thomas Vinterberg's biting black Danish farce features a dishevelled family reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, funny, and deliciously voyeuristic.

**KUNU & ADAM (15):** Johnnie Goldsmith's African buddy movie is a mostly enchanting parable about two friends who share a dream but fall out over money. Good acting lifts it out of the pulp.

**THE 39 STEPS (U):** Hitchcock's witty take on Buchanan's rapping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland pursued by scam-

pering police and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cutting rarely feel more than a frame away.

### CURRENT

**THE THIN RED LINE (15):** A glowing cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. An artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn and Nick Nolte.

**YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG):** Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

**TITANIC TOWN (15):** Julie Walters enacts in a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

**URBAN LEGEND (15):** Dire James Blunt's horror flick that takes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

## Rufus in tooth and claw

Whatever the doubts about Rufus Sewell's Macbeth, at least one must congratulate him on refusing to pander to his fan club in the balcony. If his performance is limited, it is also utterly unsentimental. You would have to postulate a MacTamboraine or a MacSaddam to find a harsher usurper of the Scots crown.

But then this Scotland is itself an unvarnished and, until the English invasion brings a few dozen feet of blue sky, forbidding place. It is the land of the sunless noon or moonless midnight: black backcloth and walls, blood-red floor, shaggy

### THEATRE

#### Macbeth

#### Queen's

lairds lit up by thinly glimmering spots, and so few props that, when stools, a table and six goblets appear for what one might call Macbeth's state picnic, the stage seems perilously overfurnished.

John Crowley's production is direct, fluent and pacy, but so spare one wonders why Macbeth covets its contents. On Sewell stomps like Mike Tyson entering the ring, a glowering, hoarse-voiced figure in black leather. He is so much the ambitious soldier that his first great soliloquy comes across not as a tussle with his conscience but as a debate about his military preparedness. When he hears of Duncan's promotion of his son Malcolm to heir apparent, he packs so much menace into his declaration that this is a "step" to "overleap" that we feel a whole staircase has been

fatally overleapt already. And from then on he sneers and angrily snaps at everything, from the thought that Banquo's progeny will one day be kings to his own insomnia.

But where is the "milk of human kindness" which will prevent him becoming a regicide? Well, it has been spiked with 140 per cent proof vodka. And where is the vulnerability, the inner sense of horror, the imagination, the richness of personality that makes Macbeth a tragic hero? Only after Sewell returns from Duncan's murder, wailing in pain as his bloody fingers writhe like a bunch of worms fleeing from the mouth of a pike, does one sense any of



No room for sentiment: Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter as the royally unpleasant couple at the heart of a neo-brutalist Macbeth

that; and then it seems pretty inconsistent. Otherwise Sewell is the dictator who rages uncontrollably at a ghost who in this production remains a figment of his fancy, and then descends into the state of snarling nihilism in which he dies.

It is a watchable but narrow interpretation that is not deepened even by his bond with Sally Dexter's Lady Macbeth. She

is a sensual, at times almost feral woman, given to rubbing at her breasts, her hips, her crotch and her husband; but to judge by the way she pushes him and she tugs her hair, its basis is rough sex. No wonder, perhaps, that he is soon ignoring her and she has become a stiff, waxen near-zombie.

Their bond is as unsentimentally handled as almost every-

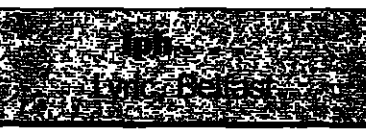
thing else. The witches are disappointingly uninspiring in their grey bonnets; but Peter Bayliss is a wonderfully dilapidated porter and Declan Conlon's fine Macduff the only seriously sensitive character onstage.

The evening is summed up by the moment Banquo gives Macbeth the diamond that the general Duncan wishes to present to Lady Macbeth.

**BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE**

● This review appeared in late editions yesterday

## Euripides in Ulster



drop in contemporary references. He reconfigures the chorus, for example, as a cohort of spiced-up Billie clones, ogling the warriors of Ancient Athens as their 1990s counterparts might members of Boyzone, but it offers no real signal of what is to follow.

Teevan could have been far more cavalier with the story, but it is the language that seems to be his abiding concern. His

new text is seasoned with freshly coined portmanteau words and swathes of Greek brusquely compressed into Ulster English. Sometimes this works, but occasionally the linguistic freedom he takes simply grates as the sheer weight of "throatcuts", "lifegones" and "father-loves" slow the proceedings unduly.

As the man with the big decision to make Sean Hannaway is a less than imposing leader, while Morna Regan's Iphigenia is never satisfyingly colloquial. Stronger work comes from Doncha Crowley, whose gossip old man oils the plot, and from Paula McFetridge, as the formidable but bested Clytemnestra.

Gary McCann's riveted steel set thrusting into the auditorium provides interesting spaces in which the cast can dance, crawl and thrash in despair. Paul O'Neill's lighting gives the huge structure the woody fluidity of a land in flux.

**LUKE CLANCY**

## Art from the heart

SINCE her last visit to Britain in April 1995 Dianne Reeves has become a great deal more confident. Instead of beginning her set as she did last time, with a self-conscious musical statement — "I am a woman. I am an artist. I sing no victim's song" — she allowed the sheer force of her voice (a wonderfully flexible, rich contralto with a three-and-a-half octave range) and personality to express the same sentiment.

Not that she would have been blamed for showing apprehension: her bassist, Reginald Veal, missed his transatlantic flight and had to be replaced at short notice by London's own Geoff Gascoyne. Fortunately, though, he was more than up to the task.

Gascoyne needed all the skill and adaptability at his command, for Reeves is not the sort of jazz singer who mines the familiar standards

### JAZZ

repertoire. Even songs he might reasonably have been expected to be familiar with — such as *Morning Has Broken*, the opening hymn, *Mongo Santamaría's Afro Blue* and Jerome Kern's *Yesterdays* — were performed in tight, personalised arrangements that drew heavily on the rapport between drummer Tarron Gully and percussionist Munyungo Jackson. Indeed, *Afyo Blue* complicated matters further by constantly threatening to break from the jazzy lode of the Coltrane version into the Cuban rhythm hinted at throughout by Venezuelan pianist Otmario Ruiz.

And then it got really difficult: Reeves embarked upon a series of intensely personal songs replete with spoken testimony passages, sudden flights of vocal fancy and luxuriously extended endings. A tender story of taboo love, *So Sweet, Too Young*, was followed by a church of reflective, philosophical songs, culminating in two of her best-known originals: *Nine*, which celebrates the imaginative play indulged in by children of that age, and a lengthy concluding paean of praise to Reeves's grandmother, detailing her preparations for Sunday church.

**CHRIS PARKER**

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### JAZZ

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# Us peasants are revolting, aren't we?

Will this be the dinner party from hell? The talk will range from "is the book dead?" to our old friend "the tabloidism of broadsheets" and that staple companion to the coffee and minis, "what's wrong with cultural elitism?" As for the talkers, if I merely whisper the words Bragg, Tusa, Adie and Humphreys — and add that there are 150 more where they came from — you will grasp the nature of the beast.

When these mighty minds have finished pondering "the tyranny of relevance" and lamenting "what happens to culture when those with authority and expertise bow on to those without," they will move on to discussing the question of everyone's life: "Is the rejection of a grand narrative in literature a way of avoiding the tricky question of quality?" We speak of little else in the pubs of Hendon. And on and on they will ramble, from 7pm to night until late on Sunday evening.

For this is no dinner party. This is *Culture Wars: Dumbing Down. Wising Up?* — a conference at the Riverside Studios in Hammer-

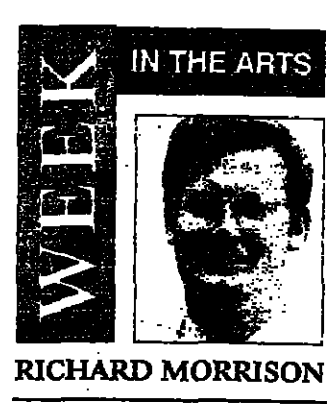
vance to the lives of the British population that it could well win this year's Turner Prize. And the fact that its co-sponsor is *Living Marxism* — or *LM* as the magazine coyly calls itself in these consensual times — gives it a lovely extra twist of irony, does it not? If I were a Marxist living at the end of the 20th century, I would be very wary of telling others what's wrong with their culture. I would look on my own works and despair.

But the "dumbing down" issue is the chic cultural chatter of our day. So it's no surprise that 150 of our finest thinkers have been tempted to display their cranial wares on *LM*'s stall. After all, there isn't much point in being a middle-class intellectual if you can't spend a weekend musing on the working classes, how the evil media are pandering to mankind's basest whims, and how educational standards have fallen to a level not expe-

rienced in these isles since the early years of Stonehenge.

The fact that on Monday morning most of the participants will return to comfortable jobs in newspapers, broadcasting or universities (and, in some remarkable cases, all three) is merely seen as adding a pi-quant authenticity to their discussions. For if the middle-class intellectual has another distinguishing trait beyond a penchant for prescribing what's good for other people, it is shameless hypocrisy.

Only three things are worth saying about "dumbing down": The first is that it has been regularly diagnosed for centuries, even if dreary American academics think they invented it in 1996, and civilisation hasn't come to a crunching halt yet. Indeed, my favourite example of needless dross-mongering comes from the world of music 250 years ago. When early 18th-century composers reacted against the contrapuntal complexities of Bach



RICHARD MORRISON

by producing tinkling little tunes over elementary harmonies, connoisseurs were horrified at this pandering to lowbrow taste. Yet within 20 years of Bach's death the boy Mozart had turned that new "bawdy" style into the most sublime sounds the world had ever known. Mozart, in other words, was a product of a "dumbed down" culture.

There's a moral in that somewhere, but I leave it to the deep thinkers at this weekend's conference to work out what it is.

The second point is that although in a capitalist democracy the bulk of our culture is inevitably aimed at a mass audience, the fact is that "elitist" pursuits and "centres of excellence" not only survive but flourish. When I look around London and see its 40 theatres, its dozen top-flight orchestras, its grand museums, its huge newspaper and magazine industry, and its armies of designers, writers, singers, hoofers and artists, I don't see a city of dreadful philistine night. On the contrary, I see a place where the popular and esoteric exist cheek-by-jowl in a glorious arcade whose pleasures could not be exhausted in a hundred lifetimes.

My third point? It's a message to the glum nostalgists who will undoubtedly dominate the portentous proceedings in Hammersmith. If

you believe something is worth preserving, go out and fight for it. Don't mope around, moaning about "the tyranny of relevance". Follow the orchestras' example. No cultural organisations feel more beleaguered than them. Their grants are puny, they are battling to win the hearts of a generation that has been denied a reasonable musical education at school, and they are snubbed by the sad middle-aged rockers running this Government.

But you won't find them be- walling our "dumbed down" nation this weekend. Tomorrow they launch the BT-sponsored National Orchestra Week. Not only will they throw open concert halls to all comers for rehearsals and talks. They will also venture out into the real world, into places where they will meet people who wouldn't dream of coming to a classical concert. They will play in railway stations,

shopping centres, cabs and super-markets. One orchestra has even done a deal with McDonald's in Grays, Essex; it will perform a "McCulture Evening" there on Monday. Risky? Of course. If the patrons don't approve, a quarter-pounder with cheese makes a formidable missile. But definitely worth the gamble. And the week also includes some vast education projects. In Stoke, 500 teenagers will perform with the BBC Philharmonic, while in Cardiff 4,000 ten-year-olds will sing with the National Orchestra of Wales.

Is this dumbing down? I hardly think so. The music to be played in these unlikely venues ranges from Beethoven to the avant-garde. But of course the scheme does bow to that dreadful thing, "the tyranny of relevance". In effect orchestras are saying: "We can't watch passively as our audiences fade away; we've got to go out and play Pied Piper." It may work, or it may be the last gasp of a dying breed. With all my heart I hope it's the former. But either way, it's a lot better than sitting around bemoaning how the country's gone to the dogs.

## Shed a tear for the finest poet of all

**MUSIC:** This weekend Goethe the lyricist will take over London's concert halls. Hilary Finch reports

One of the anecdotes which *Lieder*-lovers love to quote most is the one about the youthful Schubert sending off a parcel of his settings of Goethe's poems to the venerable master in Weimar — and hearing nothing more. Return to sender. Alas, they say, even Goethe, pompous old polymath that he was, had no idea of the lad's true genius.

Perhaps he was just too busy polishing his quartet collection, working on his *Colour Theory*, writing *Faust*... Or maybe he saw all too well that Schubert's music was metamorphosing his words, taking them somewhere way beyond, on into unknown territory.

The notorious snub to Schubert is one of the countless imponderables in a life which many writers have tried to penetrate imaginatively. For the English, Goethe — ever uncatchable, ever German — can still seem a baffling, far-distant figure. His novels have never been bestsellers; his plays are seldom staged. We know the *Faust* of Gounod, of Berlioz and of Liszt — to say nothing of the *Mefistofele* of Boito, soon to appear at the Coliseum — better than we know Goethe's own. It is, in fact, through music that many of us know Goethe at all; and music is the focus of a festival this weekend presented by the Festival Hall and the Goethe Institute to celebrate this year's 250th anniversary of the great man's birth.

Born while Bach was putting the finishing touches to his fugues, and dying even as Wagner began to look out to the far harmonic horizons, Goethe had strong, often idio-

syncratic, views on music. I asked the pianist Roger Vignoles, who devised tomorrow's concert, why two of the composers Goethe admired most — Zelter, an early song-writer, and Mozart — do not figure in the programme. Mozart, after all, was the only composer Goethe felt he would want to entrust with *Faust*.

"Yes," Vignoles says, "I imagined that was because of *Don Giovanni* — there's a good bit of hellfire there! But Mozart set only one of Goethe's poems. Zelter, though, embodied the way Goethe felt words should be set to music. Goethe definitely saw music as the servant of the word, rather than vice versa."

Is this why we now find his songs much less interesting than Schubert's? "Well, we're used to the kind of liberties that a Schubert will take with Goethe. But I suspect Goethe would have found it excessive and over-individualistic."

We know something, too, of what Goethe expected of performance. The second half of tomorrow's recital focuses on *Wilhelm Meister*, a rambling picaresque novel about the

travels of a young man in the company of a theatre troupe, a blind man and a strange young Italian exile. "Goethe wrote for these characters with instructions that they be sung with the most heartfelt feeling," Vignoles says. "He expected singing to be a deeply emotional activity: he envisaged singers being moved to tears. Perhaps it was just part of living in a highly sentimental age. But we have to be careful: this sensibility can be different from what we now call sentimentality, known during the Victorian era."

So nobody will know quite how many boxes of tissues to bring for themselves or for the soprano Solveig Kringsjorn, the baritone Thomas Allen and the narrator Sam West as they emoter their way through songs and readings from *Wilhelm Meister*, scenting out the shifting responses to Goethe of Schubert, Schumann and Wolf.

For the first half of the evening, Vignoles has selected settings by Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt which, he says, "reveal the very heart of Goethe. I'm sure it was the sheer energy of his poetry which made it irresistible to these composers."

Schubert's famous setting of the horror ballad of that fatal night ride through the forest is spurned in favour of the less well-known "Loewe song." "Goethe might well have preferred it," Vignoles says. "Loewe preserves the poem's rhythmic structure much more closely, and follows the natural inflection of the words."



"If you come knowing not a word of Goethe," says the organiser of one of this weekend's concerts, "his presence will, I hope, leap out at you from the music"

Schubert's masterstroke, of course, is not only the galloping piano part, but his daring handling of the key changes. But Loewe builds up excitement by other means. He certainly suffers a lot in the shadow of Schubert.

In a Sunday afternoon of masterclasses, Vignoles will doubtless be encouraging his young charges to get to know Goethe, man and poet, from the inside, "to know where he's coming from, the language he speaks, as a means to develop their own interpretative technique". Having said that, Vignoles remains adamant that it is through music itself that we shall perhaps know most and best about Goethe. "He gave to every composer this extraordinary elemental energy. His life resonated through theirs. If you come this weekend knowing not a word of Goethe, his presence will, I hope, leap out at you from the music."

So Vänskä and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra had a most rewarding time in Birmingham. Symphony Hall was not quite as well attended on the second day of their examination of the Sibelius anatomy but six encores are an impressive total for two concerts devoted to some of the least familiar aspects of just one composer.

Their success was all the more remarkable because the Lahti Symphony is not the most glamorous orchestra of its kind. It is neither seductive nor brilliant in sound. But if the relatively small number of strings limits the dynamic range available, there is compensation in the consistent clarity of the textures.

Clarity was more important than ever on this particular occasion. In performing the long-neglected *Wood Nymph* and *Spring Song*, the rarely heard *Luonnotar* and early versions of *En Saga* and the Violin Concerto, Vänskä and the Lahti SO were presenting demonstrations as much as interpretations. Of course, they confirmed that Sibelius's final revisions to *En Saga* and the Violin Concerto were unquestionably beneficial. It was instructive, however, to hear the case for the early versions (with Leonid Kavakos as soloist in the

## Sibelius reborn

**Lahti SO/Vänskä**  
Birmingham

Violin Concerto) presented not only in all clarity but also with apparently complete conviction.

It would have been even more instructive to hear the original 1915 version of the Fifth Symphony. Of course, when a conductor can make as thrilling an effect as Vänskä

does in negotiating the awkward change of metre and tempo in the joined-up first movement of the 1919 version, it must be difficult to renounce the chance to do it. That is not the end of the work, however, and on this occasion it seemed that Vänskä and the Lahti SO did not have the stamina to push the advantage through and sustain the continuity to a full-scale heroic conclusion.

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## A tepid tango

WHEN the programme compares a composer to Schubert, Duke Ellington, Mahler, a potency drug, Bertolt Brecht, and dirty clothes, you know someone is getting carried away. Astor Piazzolla's tango music seems to do that to people.

The hall was packed, the audience lured no doubt by Gidon Kremer's two Piazzolla CDs and the tango's new eminence at the height of world music fashion. Attention was rapt. Kremer walked on with his violin, and throbbed, swooped and lurched through two solo études. Other instruments gathered: a viola, a cello, a second violin. Then a long thin Lithuanian dancer, Eglė Spokaitė, added her pennyworth to *Milonga per Tre*. Finally Marcelo Nisrman showed up with his bandoneon, spooning its sweet and sour sauce over the music.

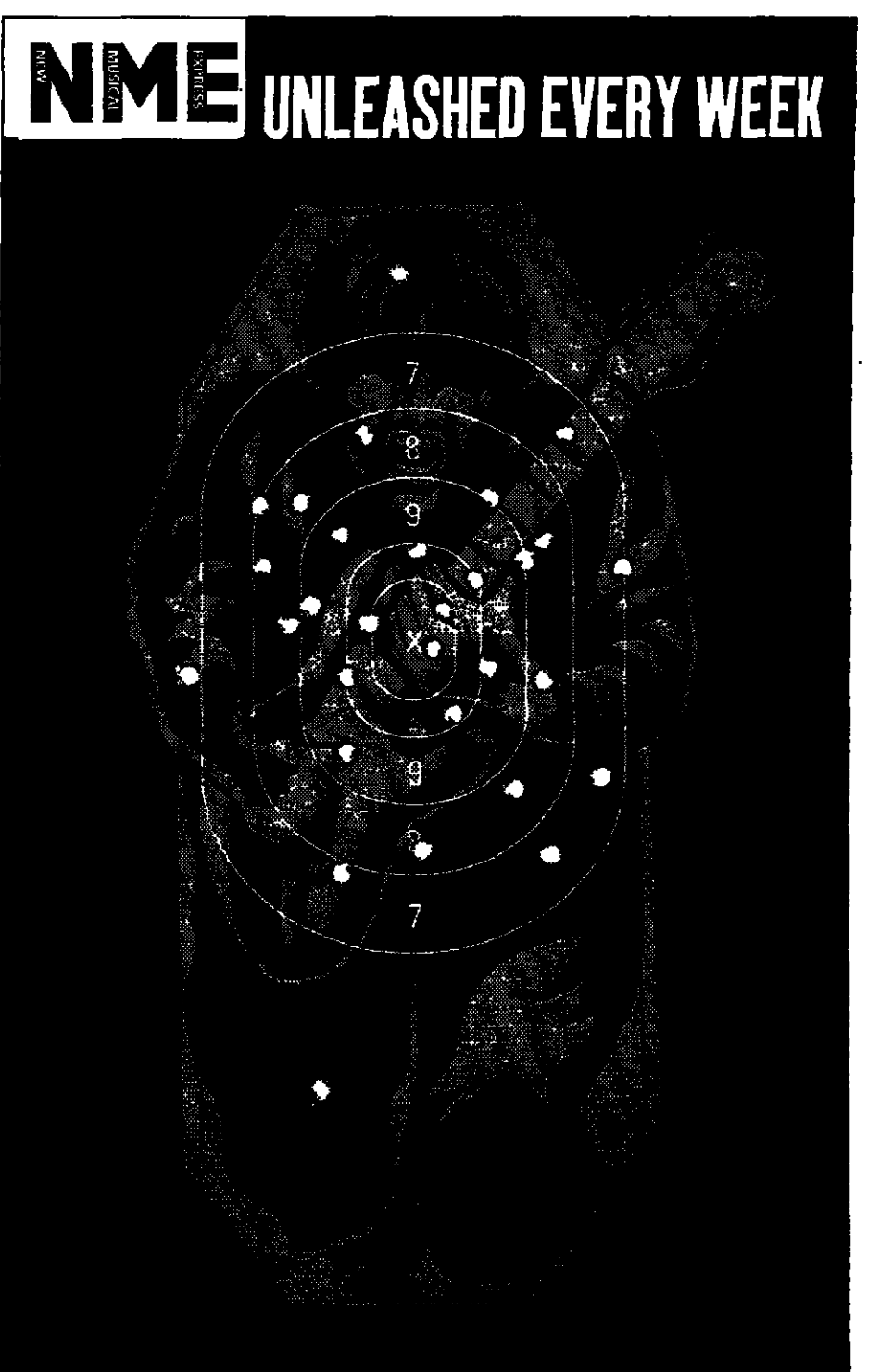
The dancer was an obvious mistake. It takes two to tango, after all; passion and a rose between the teeth help too. But the concert also cast doubt, if not on Piazzolla *per se*, then at least on the advisability of spending a whole evening with Kremer's genteel interpretations of a popular music that

began this century, rude and dirty, in Argentina's gutters.

Piazzolla himself removed some of the tango's heat by combining its sexual yearning with French refinement. Kremer's performances and arrangements cool the tango further. In his hands it becomes the perfect Post-Modern art form, all passion put in quotation marks, abandon reduced to neat string glissandos, beautifully judged but as predictable as lampposts.

Kremer's solo violin could do little; but his friends varied the tango's hesitating cadences with trills, scratches and little slaps to the woodwork. By the time of *Five Sensations*, however, even the most Post-Modern of tango fiends may have felt fatigue. Admirable musicianship, throughout; but for those not hooked on the Piazzolla drug, a mildly depressing evening.

GEOFF BROWN



Julia Migenes

Theatre



## POP OPINION

XTC's time has come

## Meanwhile, back in Swindon ...

Tied into a punitive contract with Virgin, XTC went on strike for six years. They downed tools — in their case, pastoral psychedelia, punchy, jungle-green pop and a pagan tilt at English mores — in 1993, and haven't released a note since. Their leader, the lugubrious Andy Partridge, retreated to his terraced house in Swindon, battled through an acrimonious divorce, built a studio in the shed at the end of his garden and started working on an album that he thought would never see the light of day.

"The more cack got thrown at us — the more the blinding scumstorm of negativity came our way — the more I wrote. The more acid gets poured on my motor, the more volts my battery has," Partridge says. He's balanced on the edge of his piano stool in his extraordinary parlour — the room is crammed with toys, wood-block etchings, dried herbs and naive pictures of huge fat farmyard pigs. It looks exactly as you'd expect the lead singer of XTC's home to look. He is, after all, one of the great British pop eccentrics.

"Some people would chew off their limbs to have these songs," he continues, correctly. "But I'm left with this longing for betterment. I need to murder those who influenced me. There are some big ghosts I still can't get rid of." He takes a sip of his almond tea. "Ray Davies just will not get out of my house. I have to kill Ray. I have to bludgeon Brian Wilson to death. If not kill, I certainly have to squeeze Burt Bacharach by the nuts."

"McCartney, I want to reduce to soya mince, and Lennon — well, unfortunately, someone's already done the job for me with Lennon."

"Apparently," he says, twinkling over his specs, "there's a fellow on the Internet who claims I killed Lennon."

Having inspired a whole generation of Britpop artists — Blur, in particular, were up to

Andy Partridge has called off XTC's six-year strike, Caitlin Moran reports

their neck in debt to XTC during their *Parklife* days — Partridge and Co were finally released from their Virgin contract in 1995, and *Apple Venus Volume 1*, their first album in seven years, is out this week. And it's a stormer: XTC are still at least five years ahead of the pack.

The first track is as awesome as you'd imagine a song called *River of Orchids* should be: a world-sized bank of synopetized pizzicato violins, offset by Partridge's yelps and moans. *Easter Theatre* continues his obsession with birth and decay, and comes across like Vaughan Williams scoring the creation of a new world; while *Greenman* sounds like the last scene in a film set on another planet, where the jungle-creatures prepare a victory feast after the enemy has been blown to pieces with space lasers.



Andy Partridge: "I have to murder my influences"

"Oh no! You accuse me of writing the Ewok National Anthem!" Partridge yelps, in obvious distress. "Please, no! I've had a lot of people accuse that track of being very Arabic; but it's very pagan, very English. There's a slight dromedary whiff about the percussion, admittedly; but it goes no further east than Norwich. And no Ewoks were involved."

Asked what kept him going through his self-enforced six-year lay off, Partridge comes back to his childhood heroes once again.

"I just want to outdo all these people who caused me to become trapped in this weird ideas world where all my ideas want to come out in music. It was never this way when I was a child. I didn't know whether I wanted to be an architect or a kite-maker or a bullet-biter or a painter. I just felt like an ideas person. But now I feel like I'm on these hot rails to Hades, where the orifice I've grown is a songwriting orifice that won't heal over."

Partridge was ten when the Beatles came along; and, as with every other member of his generation, his DNA was instantly altered. "I was there in my duffel coat and my shorts, thinking, 'Shall I scream? Girls scream. Oh God. I don't know whether boys are supposed to scream at other boys or not.'" He settled for "grinding my knees together earnestly". He cultivated a Brian Wilson pudding-bowl haircut which, to preserve its geometry, he would cup in his hands as he slept.

"I just think everything to do with music is magic," he beams, twirling round and round on his piano stool. "And that was the awful thing about the whole Virgin strike. It wasn't so much the money. But it was the awful silence that got to me — that they'd stopped me from casting my spells on people. As long as I can be Merlin, I'm happy."

● Apple Venus Volume 1 is out now on Cooking Vinyl

## ARTS

## POP INTERVIEW

Stereophonics take off



Straight outta Cwmaman: After 11 months on the road, Stereophonics are glad to get home to mid-Glamorgan — "It's cheaper than therapy"

## Pride of our valley

Stereophonics are the great Welsh hope of Brit rock.

But, Paul Sexton asks, can they win over America?

Last week's Grammy Awards were a merciless indictment of the enfeebled powers of British popular music as seen through American eyes. On a night at which the Brits were in the sort of form we showed at the Boston Tea Party, only a few of our senior rock citizens such as Eric Clapton and Page & Plant rescued us from total whitewash, and it was up to young whippersnappers like Elvis Costello to represent our youth policy.

Twisting the knife still deeper, the current issue of *Billboard* magazine trumpets the countrywide revival of that old devil called rock as a viable force on the American scene. The story celebrates the big numbers now being returned on the *Billboard* 200 album chart by such bright young guitar-bearers as Goo Goo Dolls, Creed, Limp Bizkit and Everclear, as well as genre staples like Metallica, Hole and Korn.

Nary a Brit among them, and the tale on American rock radio is almost as grim. For even a whiff of respectability on *Billboard*'s Modern Rock Tracks airplay chart, we have to grasp at the shirt-tails of such acts as Garbage and Placebo, who are not so much Brits as, well, Brit-ish. The only glimmer of hope seems to come in the superior grooves of Farboy Slim and the techno-rock stylings of V2 label newcomers Tin Star, now gracing playlists with their song *Head*.

But among those British outfits that know one end of an axe from another, the one that

seems ideally suited to a transatlantic crossing must be Stereophonics. Also signed to V2, the trio from Cwmaman in South Wales have risen through the domestic ranks with inexorable purpose in the past two years, bringing a raucous individualism to a guitar-bass-drums configuration that many thought was going down for the third time.

This week, the band trounced their latest Top Five hit, *Just Looking*, outselling Cher in the process and neatly teasing up next week's release of an assured second album, *Performance and Cocktails*, that looks set for an unlikely head-to-head with bobbysoxin Britney Spears for British chart supremacy.

The album consolidates the premier division place they audaciously snatched with its predecessor, 1997's *Word Gets Around*, which has now clocked an aggregate of almost a year among our bestsellers. After a 1998 Best British Newcomer gong at the Brits and a mighty performance in front of 10,000 fans at Cardiff Castle last summer, Stereophonics last week booked an even grander day out, at Swansea's Morfa Stadium in July, and promptly sold 20,000 tickets in four days.

"The Cardiff show was the first time we'd seen 10,000 people there to see us," says the lead singer, Kelly Jones. "Before that, you'd do festivals

and you'd just assume they were not there for you. After that, you get a lot more confidence. Enough for some quiet confidence that their particular combination of perspiration and inspiration will win them a foothold on the daunting peaks of the American range."

"We toured for five weeks in

**'In Italy I had to draw a map to show where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians'**

America last time, and it was hard work. Some of the drives were about 24 hours and you can't get off the bus," says Jones. "You go over there, and you see the Prodigy, and Oasis a little bit, but you listen to the radio, and it's like Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, Green Day, the same songs all the time."

"But we had some good shows. We played the Viper Room in L.A. and San Francisco and Boston were really good. The new record comes out there in September, so the record company has got time

to get a decent plan together. We'll put in the effort if it will."

From a Welsh village to the American heartland would be another giant leap for Stereophonics, but there have been many of those since the trio became playground friends. Jones and Stuart Cable, the drummer, played together in bands even as pre-teens, adding bassist Richard Jones (no relation) and serving the statutory sentence grinding out covers in working men's clubs.

"I was 12, Stuart was 15 or 16, there were five of us in the band and none of us wanted to sing," says the personable Kelly. "Because my old man was in a band, it was assumed that I would have to be the singer. Up until 15, you're afraid to sing properly because you think someone's listening. Then you realise they are listening, so you sing properly."

"Stuart went into a glam band, I went into REO Speedwagon or something. Richard came in, he'd never played in a band before. We started doing covers of Neil Young and Bob Dylan, started listening to some decent music and then we started writing."

Stereophonics signed to V2 in the summer of 1996, and while it was soon clear that they would form part of the new Welsh spearhead, inevitably being coupled in "trend" stories with the Manics and Catatonia, they never lorded it over their local rivals. Unfash-

ionable it may be, but their home is still in those showbiz-free, green pastures of Glamorgan.

"I've been pretty much everywhere now," says Jones, "and the cities are great, but when you're brought up in the country, in a small village, you get the best of both worlds. We're the type of band that tours 11 months of the year, and you appreciate it so much more when you're away. It's cheaper than therapy. I moved a mile down the road, and I've got to move back, it's that ridiculous."

Nor has Jones's head been turned by a more than attractive offer he received recently from Baz Luhrmann, director of such lauded films as *Romeo + Juliet*. "Apparently he'd seen me on a video in America and asked his casting director to try and track me down to do an audition for a leading part. But I don't think I could act. I don't think it's appropriate at the moment. Great offer, but I'd rather write a screenplay."

In any case, the road is calling again, and on their endless travels Stereophonics will take the opportunity to advertise the red dragon. "A taxi driver picked us up in Germany the other day. He said, 'Where are you from?' and we said Wales. He said, 'Ah, Richard Burton, the Valleys, and we were like, 'Bloody hell'. But in Italy, I had to draw a map for a girl to show her where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians."

● *Performance and Cocktails* is released by V2 on Monday. Stereophonics tour Britain from April 15-May 2, and play Morfa Stadium, Swansea, on July 31

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POP INTERVIEW  
Stereophonics take to...

## NEW POP ALBUMS

### Kula Shaker revitalised

**NEW ALBUMS:** David Sinclair on Kula Shaker's second album; plus, right, Nigel Williamson sees them in action

# Karmic wheel of cool

**KULA SHAKER**  
*Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts*  
(Columbia SHAKER2CD £15.99)

HAVING emerged from the shaky aftermath of their million-selling debut album, *K*, with a renewed sense of purpose, Kula Shaker return to the fray with *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts*, an album which should surely lift them above the "Is it real or is it retro?" debate. Even those who derided the band's use of Indian instruments and Sanskrit lyrics may be surprised at how well those influences have been incorporated on tracks such as *Namini Nanda-nandana* and *Radhe Radhe*, the latter sung by guest vocalist Gouri Choudhury against a joyful combination of Krishna-like chanting and mambo horns.

On the minus side, Crispian Mills does not exactly help the band's cause with lyrics that are once again freighted with all sorts of cosmic mumbo-jumbo. "You're a wizard in a blizzard," he yelps meaninglessly in *Mystical Machine Gun*, while in *Great Hosannah* he raves about prophets rising to greet "a new world".

But this is still an impressive effort, and tracks such as *SOS*, *108 Battles* and *Sound of Drums* bristle with a self-confident energy that renders them impervious to complaints from those who think they have heard it all before.

**VAN MORRISON**  
*Back On Top*  
(pointblank/Virgin VPBCD50 £15.99)

THERE IS only a thin line between an average Van Morrison album and one where his genius truly sparkles. The fa-

miliar ingredients are always there: the gruff voice, the gorgeous horn parts, the lyrics as evocative as mottled sunlight on an autumn day. But in keeping with its bullish title, *Back On Top* offers something more, making it Morrison's most engaging album since *Days Like These* in 1993.

It begins with *Goin' Down Geneva*, a subtly casual, 12-bar blues that sets a rougher tone than that of his recent work. Along with a buoyant piano break by Geraint Watkins, the number boasts the first full-blooded guitar solo (from Mick Green) on a Morrison album in recent memory.

From there the singer, aided throughout by the superb harmonies of Brian Kennedy, proceeds down a familiar route, but with a distinct spring in his step. "What do you do when you get to the top and there's nowhere to go?" he ponders on the title track, a question which seems redundant in the context of such a superlative, minor-key shuffle as this.

If Morrison seems to be treading water on one or two of the slower numbers, the level of commitment in the per-



The comeback kids: Kula Shaker have shrugged off accusations of cultural opportunism and retro obsessions on *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts*

formances never falters. And when he strikes out on the melancholy narrative of *High Summer* and the swinging, Sam Cooke-influenced *Precious Time*, the mica flashes as brightly as it ever has.

**BRITNEY SPEARS**

*Baby One More Time*

(Jive 052172 £15.99)

IT IS easy to snigger at all that "girl power" rhetoric which the Spice Girls brought to pop, but at least with groups such as them and All Saints you feel as if the singers are calling the shots in their songs.

With American teen phenomenon Britney Spears, whose debut album has been written for her, Tin Pan Alley-

style, by various bespoke pop songwriters, there is a return to the formulaic R'n'B melodies and supine sentiments of a previous generation. "I don't know how to live without your love," she simmers on *Born to Make You Happy*, while

much of the undoubted melodrama of the title track depends on the repeated injunction to "Hit me", diplomatically concealed by the three little dots in the title.

Still, by hanging on for a second week at the top of the sin-

gles chart, Spears has brought a welcome sense of perspective to Blur's perfectly pleasant new record, which could only manage a berth at No 2.

**SHAWN MULLINS**

*Soul's Core*

(SMG/Columbia CK 69637 £15.99)

THESE days it is an amazing feat to get an artist like Shawn Mullins off the ground in this country. But with his current single, *Lullaby*, in the Top

Ten, the former soldier from Atlanta, who started out selling his self-financed recordings from a van, is the exception that proves the rule.

*Soul's Core* is an album steeped in the authentic imagery and ultra-sincere emotions that form the backbone of traditional American folk-rock songwriting. "My Granddad's hands are worn/From 50 years of growin' corn/Back behind the house where I was born," he mumbles in *Ballad of Billy Jo McKay*, sounding like a cross between Robbie Robertson and Lou Reed at their most lugubrious. It is fine stuff of its kind, but may prove too heavily concentrated for modern British tastes.

## Mystical musical mash

Kula Shaker took over the tiny basement that is the 100 Club in Oxford Street for the first of three club dates in advance of their full British tour. Three years ago the band's debut album, *K*, unveiled a heady, patchouli-laden mix of 1960s psychedelic pop that sounded as if the Beatles were still hanging out with the Maharishi and Syd Barrett had never left Pink Floyd. It appealed to old hippies and young ravers alike, entered the album chart at No 1 and won a Brit award. The band's leader, Crispian Mills, immediately became a media darling, fêted not least because of his theatrical connections as the son of Hayley Mills and grandson of Sir John Mills.

Yet the backlash was swift. Mills did himself no favours with some ill-advised comments ("Hitler knew a lot more than he made out") and suddenly the band were receiving the cold shoulder, widely denounced as phoney purveyors of pseudo-mystical numo-jumbo. So their second album, *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts* (see review, left) finds them at a crunch point in their short career.

On this showing they remain stuck steadfastly in some rose-tinted vision of the 1960s hippie idyll. To their fans they are cosmic visionaries, to their detractors merely sad, middle-class copycats and this tour is not going to change minds either way. The material from the new album, such as *SOS* and *Mystical Machine Gun*, was washed in the same psychedelic primary colours as the hit singles from the first album, *Hey Dude* and *Govinda*.

What saves the band from mere pastiche is Mills, who was a charismatic showman, despite some incomprehensible ranting about the significance of it being a full moon.

Apparently he likes to consult his astrological chart before making a move. On this night, at least, the stars must have been twinkling benignly.

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1) Talk on Corners	Corn (Atlantic)
2	(2) The Misadventures of	Lauren Hill (Columbia)
3	(3) The Road to Nowhere	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
4	(4) This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
5	(5) You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Shiraz)
6	(6) Fergies, Not Forgotten	Corn (Atlantic)
7	(7) Stay One	Stapa (A&M)
8	(8) Life There a Love	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
9	(9) No Exit	Blondie (RCA/Beyond)
10	(10) Great American	Cardigans (Stockholm)

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Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

**LENNY WHITE**

*Edge*

(Hip Hop HBD 8019)

IF drummer Lenny White's mission is to prove that funk can embrace as rich a variety of rhythms, sounds and textures as its snooty cousin jazz, he succeeds triumphantly on this immediately appealing yet subtly crafted album. The opening track, *Raiders in the Temple of Boom*, sounds like an escape from a late Miles Davis album, while the treacly bass-clarinets of Bennie Maupin recalls *Bitches Brew*. Led Zeppelin's *Kashmir* is intriguingly filtered through a Sly Stone-like arrangement: rap, fusion, and even the odd scrap of straight-ahead jazz are also thrown into the mix, plus samples of everything from Bulgarian choirs to African traditional music.

With a stellar band — Patrice Rushen, Foley McCreary, Victor Bailey and Danny

## Flying a funky flag

### JAZZ ALBUMS

Walsh are all involved — and White's meticulous production, this is a classy album that should appeal even to the hit-erto funk-allergic.

**TONY REMY'S BLUE VIBE**

*Jammin' at the 12 Bar Club*

(Alltone ALTR002)

EVER since the mid-1980s, when guitarist Tony Remy was playing with Desperately Seeking Fusion, those impressed by the fluidity and vis-

ceral impact of his live sound have found it difficult, on the evidence of his records, to convince the sceptical that he is among Britain's most exciting soloists on any instrument. The release of these seven live bluesy jams should make their task a great deal easier.

Of the album's 70-plus minutes, more than an hour is devoted to Remy's inexhaustibly inventive guitar, from blisteringly eloquent 12-bar blues to fierce, punchy funk, bringing to mind not only rock icons such as Hendrix but also later, jazzier players such as Mike Stern and John Scofield. With support from drummer Pete Levinson and a selection of bassists, plus the occasional sweetly agile solo from saxophonist Jean Toussaint, this is, in Remy's words, his chance to "get up and wail, and worry about it next time round".

CHRIS PARKER

## Last of the soul brokers

Malaco Records, from Jackson, Mississippi, is one of the last of the independent record companies that have helped to shape America's musical tastes. It has kept its independence not by chasing pop glory — only three of its records have ever made the American Top Ten — but by concentrating on the market it knows best: contemporary Southern rhythm and blues, soul and gospel.


The six-CD box set *The Last Soul Company* (Malaco MCD30) celebrates the work of the company which "makes black music for black people". The label enjoyed its first big success in 1970 with an infectious dance record called *Groove Me*, by New Orleans singer King Floyd. That was followed by another dance smash, Jean Knight's *Mr Big Stuff*. Then, as the company grew, came country-influenced soul singers such as Dorothy Moore, established soul stars such as ZZ Hill and Ben-

### BLUES ALBUMS


my Latimore and the powerhouse vocals of Denise LaSalle, whose raunchy *Your Husband Is Cheating On Us* is one of the set's highlights. If there's a place for authentic soul in the modern music marketplace, then this corner of Mississippi is still the place to find it.

Another independent, the New York-based Roulette label, is the subject of box set issued by Westside, *The Roulette Story* (WESX305). Roulette covered everything from jazz, through R&B and rockabilly to soul and pop. This three-CD collection offers an entertaining run through its output, taking in such gems as Jimmy Lloyd's *Rocker In My Pocket*, English Country Garden by Jimmie Rodgers, Count Basie's immaculate *Little Darlin'* and San Francisco Bay Blues by the Au Go Go Singers, a folk group which included a young Stephen Stills in its line-up.

JOHN CLARKE



# ontopform



## VAN MORRISON BACK ON TOP

Two years after his last studio album *The Healing Game*, Van Morrison delivers his brand new album *Back On Top*. Recorded at The Wool Hall in Bath with a band including Van stalwarts Brian Kennedy, Radra Trench, Pee Wee Ellis and Katie Kissoon, together with Mick Green (guitar), Geraint Watkins (Hammond), Ian Jennings (double bass) and Bobby Irwin (drums). With its rootsier, more bluesy feel, *Back On Top* is a real return to form.

RELEASED 8TH MARCH

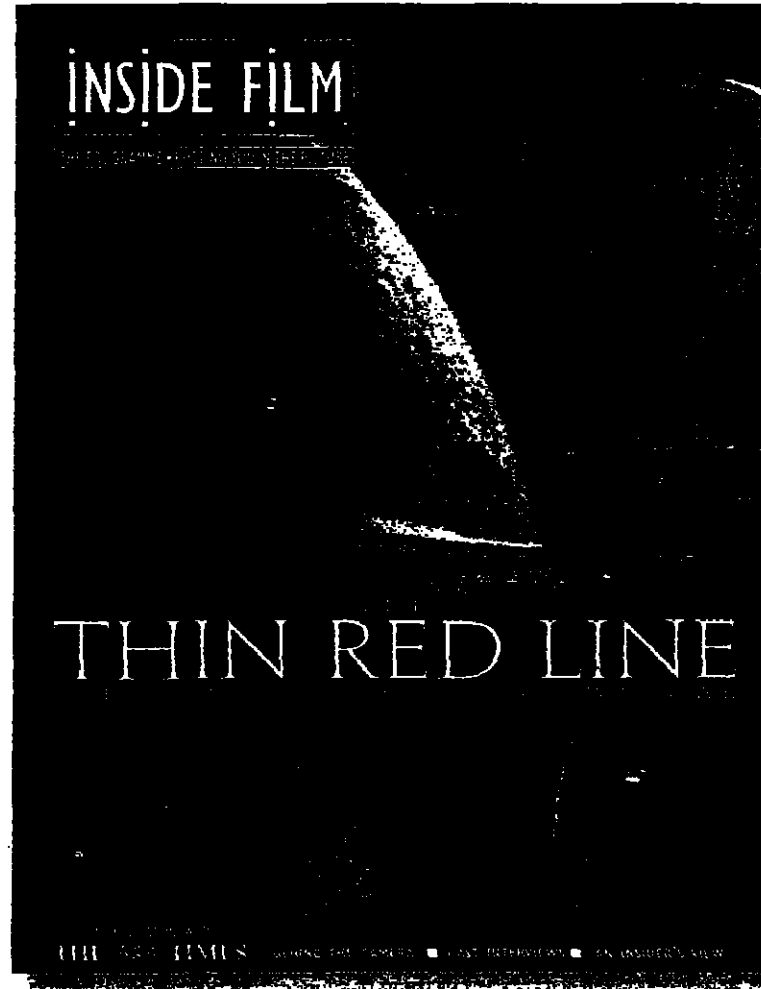
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# THE TIMES

## FREE INSIDERS' GUIDE TO THE THIN RED LINE



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## FREE IN THE TIMES TODAY

CHANGING TIMES



# FT's German challenge

Germany's press faces a shake-up with the launch of a new business daily. Report by Sigrid Auferbeck

With the *Financial Times* about to enter the German market, business publications there are bracing for a shake-up. The *FT* this week announced plans to launch a German-language business and financial daily in partnership with Gruner+Jahr, the newspaper and magazine wing of Bertelsmann.

The £60-million joint-venture company is working under the banner "Facts & Figures GmbH" until a title for the paper is agreed. Andrew Gowers, deputy editor of the *FT* in London, is editorial director of the new company, with Michael Rzesutsek of G+J in charge of marketing and management.

The "German *FT*" — the launch is expected late this year — will print on the characteristic salmon-coloured paper and a comprehensive online version will be available. An editorial team of about 100 — mostly based in Hamburg — will produce the paper, with access to articles from the *FT*'s global network of correspondents. The sales target is 150,000, the break-even schedule is three years.

It is an ambitious project: the first new daily to enter the German market for 20 years will challenge two heavyweights: *Handelsblatt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The former is Germany's monopolist business daily with sales of 160,000; the *Frankfurt* paper is a national daily boasting authoritative business and finance sections which sell 400,000 copies.

Both papers are gearing up for the imminent circulation battle. *Frankfurter* — based in euroland's financial centre — launched an extra finance section in January and



Fistful of deutchmarks: the *Financial Times* hopes to carve a niche for itself in a German market that boasts £23 billion in advertising revenue

introduced an *FT*-style Lex column. Its financial expertise received a boost when staff from its now defunct stablemate, *Blick durch die Wirtschaft*, were incorporated into *Frankfurter* last year.

*Handelsblatt* is now recruiting to bolster its editorial team of 175, fearing that the new *FT* may poach its staff. The paper has improved its layout and introduced features and analysis pages as well as devoting more space to personal finance. Gowers believes that there is enough room in the rapidly growing business media market for all three publications: "This market is growing faster than the papers."

The *FT* strategy is to find a niche by combining "the authority of traditional German newspapers with the investigative and story-breaking culture of German business magazines". The German dailies

suffer from the perception that they are dull and act as obedient vehicles for the reporting of corporate success, leaving critique and scoops to the magazines. Ironically, as the German corporate world has become increasingly multinational, business journalists covering this changing landscape have remained insular: all titles are in German hands, mostly addressing a German readership.

Business and financial journalism has boomed in the past few years. Previously, Germans had showed little interest in personal finance — only this decade did they start to plunder their savings accounts and shift to more modern forms of investment. First to take advantage of this were the magazines. New titles such as *Börse Online* and *Impulse* were launched, while existing titles such as *Capital*, *Wirtschaftswoche* and *Manager Magazin* flourished.

The newspaper market was different: there were no new players but all the dailies — notably *Die Welt* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung* — upgraded their business coverage because it was this section that was pulling in the largest advertising revenue. In 1998, the national dailies increased their advertising revenue by 11.8 per cent, according to the association of German newspaper publishers. It is not surprising that Pearson, which owns the *FT*, is eyeing a share of this DM6.9 billion (£2.34 billion) in revenue.

The European edition of the *FT*, printed in Frankfurt since 1979, has seen its sales climb to 22,000 in Germany, but further gains seem unlikely as Germans remain reluctant to read English. In G+J, the *FT* group has found

an ambitious partner. It already owns the business magazines *Capital*, *Impulse* and *Börse Online*. G+J's interest in joining forces with the *FT* is no doubt heightened by the fact that it has no major daily in its stable — its revamp of *Berliner Zeitung* has yet to enjoy success.

Andrew Gowers will relish the challenge on his hands. After a successful year as acting editor of the *FT* while Richard Lambert was in America, he found little appeal in retreating from the front line. But already some German analysts are pointing to a possible weak link. "Gowers will find it difficult to hire enough talented journalists," says Peter Turi, Editor of *Kress-Report*, a media gossip publication. Gowers is headhunting writers but he has yet to reveal any "big names" — writers who would serve to attract further quality personnel.

## BT lines up a new image

THERE has been much posturing in adland over the past two weeks as to which agency has won what accounts in the great BT pitch bonanza. Newspaper business sections have banded about fantastic spend figures with scant regard to the truth, common sense, competitor activity or basic mathematics.

However, with this week's award of the £5 million youth advertising account to Labour's favourite trendy advertising co-operative, St Luke's, BT's new line-up of agencies is complete.

Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, Britain's largest agency, had the

most to lose, holding most of the account over the past three years. BT went into the pitch intending to spread a workload that had become onerous for any one agency to handle — at least of all profitability. Abbott Mead retained the most significant chunk of the business, the £60 million domestic consumer account. This includes call stimulation, the task that over the past two decades has brought us Beattie and Bob Hoskins.

As we know, the "it's good to talk" ads are set to disappear after five years, as that task (getting people, particularly men, to use the phone more and for longer) appears to have been met.

Today, the first problem is how to reverse BT's long-term decline in market share in the face of competition from cable operators. M&C Saatchi, Maurice Saatchi's agency, emerged as the primary beneficiary of the review process. It won the £10 million business-to-business communications account with a brief that involves promoting BT as more than a supplier of telephony, but as a business partner in the digital age. The win is a coup for M&C Saatchi. And its vital to BT's management that this campaign succeeds. Business-to-business is about corporate confidence, shuffling off an old-fashioned image and, almost as important, cracking the insecurity of BT's management.

The rest of the line-up is completed by St Luke's, and Ammirati Puris Lintas, which has been taken on for special projects.

The first new Abbott Mead campaign is expected next month. BT has a good advertising track record. There is no reason to suggest that this will change given the quality of agency line-up.

NEWS this week of Adam Lury's retirement from advertising at the age of 42, has given many pause for thought.

Lury is one of the five co-founders of HMC & Partners, the agency born in 1987 that went on to be the most controversial, pretentious, clever and hyped of the 1990s. As planning director, Lury was the brain behind such campaigns as the launch of First Direct bank, the turnaround of Britvic's Tango brand and the repositioning of the AA as the "fourth emergency service".

Lury's belief that the conventions by which advertising was created could be challenged to allow clients more access is now almost universal industry practice. His championing of strategic media buying, and his belief that advertising did not have to patronise the consumer, have also been greatly influential. He will be missed.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.



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If you would like to apply for either of the above positions, or seek more details, please call Emma Tarry or Kathryn Hall on 0171 359 5244 or send us your CV by post or by email [emma@lloyds-underwriting.com](mailto:emma@lloyds-underwriting.com)

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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- Integrate into a team of committed and enthusiastic managers in delivering a unique service.
- Work within alliances with other very high quality arts providers.

### The Qualifications

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- Planned campaigns, briefing, directing and evaluating suppliers.
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Please send full CV, stating salary to:  
Howard Raynor, Chief Executive,  
The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester M2 3WS.

\*Salary would not be limited for the right candidate

THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

For more information about The Bridgewater Hall, visit the web site at [www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk](http://www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk)

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One of the UK's leading firms of chartered surveyors wishes to appoint a marketing manager to be based at its UK head office in London. The scope of the responsibilities ranges from development of the group marketing strategy through all aspects of implementation covering advertising, external and internal publications, corporate identity, web-site development and client support activity. A graduate, probably in marketing, you should have spent at least five years in a classical marketing role and be experienced in team leading and in working at board level. Salary will be negotiated around £40,000, supported by a comprehensive benefits package. Please apply, in strictest confidence, with full career details, to R J Cleland, as adviser to the company, at Thomson Partners Ltd., 1-11 Hay Hill, Berkeley Square, London W1X 7LF or 14 Sandyford Place, Glasgow G3 7NB.

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Search and Selection



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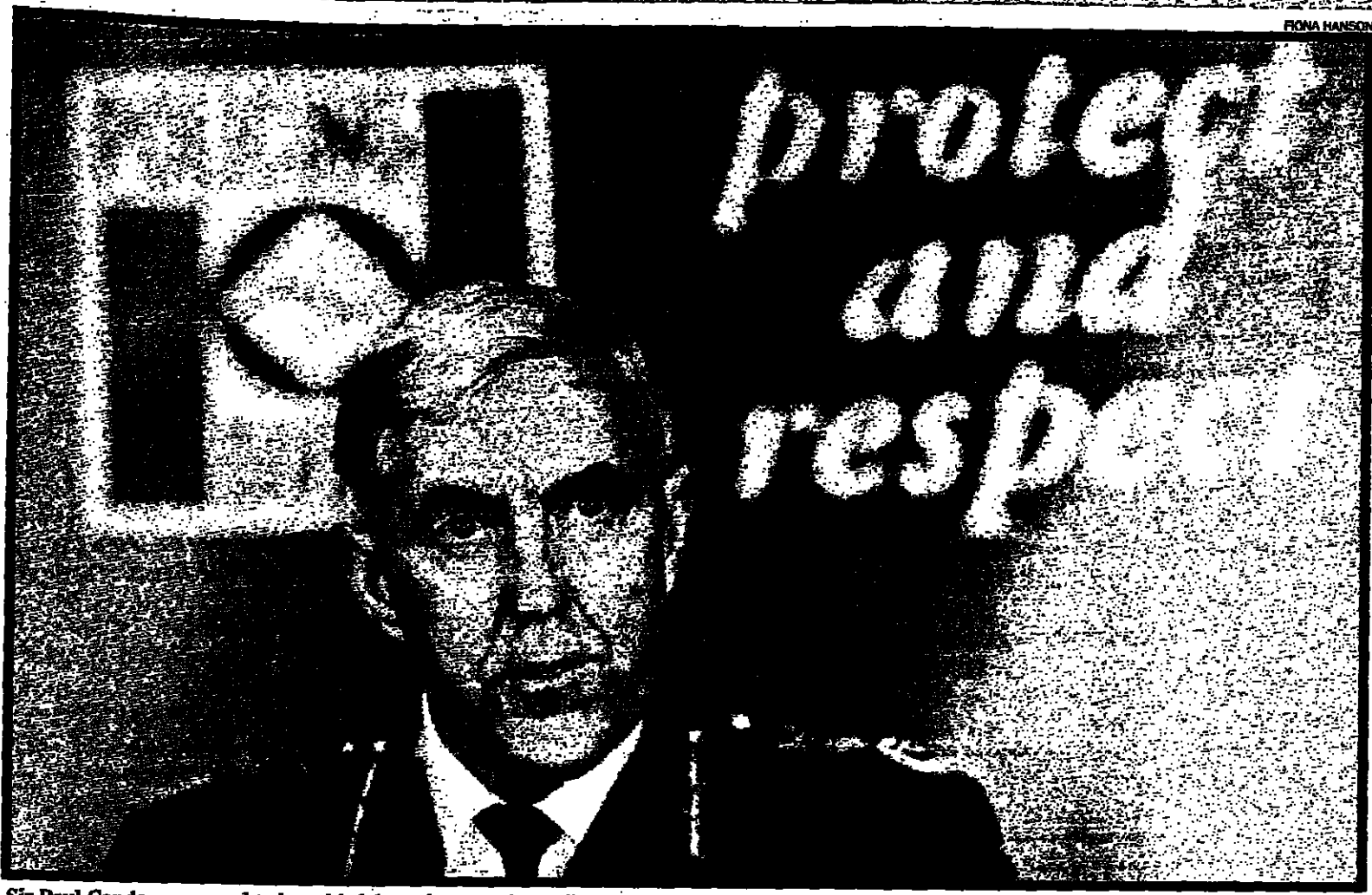
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BT lines up new image



Sir Paul Condon managed to keep his job, to the unspoken relief of the Yard press office, despite the furor arising from the Stephen Lawrence report

## Spinning a thin blue line?

As the Stephen Lawrence report finally slips down Fleet Street's news schedules, Scotland Yard press officers are breathing a sigh of relief. The Met has been badly bruised but Sir Paul Condon is still in charge. The damage could have been much worse.

Organising press relations for Britain's 54 police forces and national squads must often seem like occupying that proverbial spot between a rock and a hard place. "The journalists think we are holding back. The police think we are too close to reporters," sighed one senior press officer this week.

The role of police press officers has recently come under increasing scrutiny. Journalists complain that it is often hard to obtain information and that responses to queries are slow. Press officers argue that they are constrained by the nature of police work. But Scotland Yard has nonetheless increased its emphasis on press relations, now a 70-strong department with 30 press officers and an annual budget of £6 million. National-

Police press officers face pressures to provide both more information and less, says Stewart Tandler

ly, no force is without its media unit, and responsibility for them has gradually passed from senior police officers to media managers.

The units offer a daily diet of crime stories and traffic accidents for newspapers, radio stations and television. The greatest focus of media attention is the Yard, which handles about 25,000 calls each year to its 24-hour press bureau. Yet in many county forces, press officers are less responsive to media demands. They close at 5pm, and press officers are rarely contactable at night or at weekends.

Such reluctance to maintain the flow of information reflects a longstanding paranoia about the press among police — although Dick Fedorico, the head of the Met's press and publicity operation, argues that other organisations are equally cautious. He advocates a better rapport between the press and press officers but ad-

mits that even in the Met, only about a third of officers are comfortable with the media.

The idea of openness towards the media also sits uneasily with the view of many modern chief constables, versed in the latest management theories that dictate that forces should speak with one corporate voice to the press, as commercial companies do.

In recent years, forces including the Yard have tried to tighten their control on information — not always successfully, since most crime reporters operate by using personal contacts. The Yard has also been accused of using the drive against corruption to curtail such contacts — a charge it stoutly denies.

According to Chester Stern, the president of the Crime Reporters' Association, trying to gag officers will encourage rather than halt corruption.

He says that tighter controls encourage an underground market for information, funded by less scrupulous newspapers.

Last year, for example, there were reports that £35,000 was being offered for a picture of a particular notorious paedophile in a police cell.

Meanwhile, police press officers face the prospect of further restrictions arising from the legal constraints on information concerning a crime. For example, forces are currently split over when to identify suspects who have been charged. The Yard identifies any suspect as soon as his or her name is on the charge sheet. Other forces refuse to do so until the suspect is in court.

Fresh restrictions on basic information are also on the horizon. For instance, new European legislation could prevent officers from releasing details of accident victims.

Until a few years ago, forces briefed reporters about cases

under an embargo, so that the latter could write background articles in preparation for convictions. But defence lawyers claimed there was a risk of contempt of court, and almost all forces now refuse to brief journalists about a case until the jury has gone out.

Despite such increasing legal fetters, chief constables still agree that for better or worse, they must live with the press and improve relations — although there is now at least one alternative which is cheap and offers links to the public unfiltered by journalists.

US forces make wide use of the Internet, and British forces are showing increasing interest. The Yard's site now draws 40,000 people a month. And the largest single entry? The Lawrence report, of course.

## News at Ten hangs on to its good name

WHY is ITN so determined to prevent Sky News using the title *News at Ten*? Answer: it wants to start a 24-hour news channel soon and could then resurrect its most famous brand.

The biggest applause at its wake on Wednesday came when Sir David Nicholas, former ITN editor, said: "I can't find it in my heart to cheer the end of *News at Ten*." Just as well the party was shunned (in favour of football) by the executives who wielded the knife.

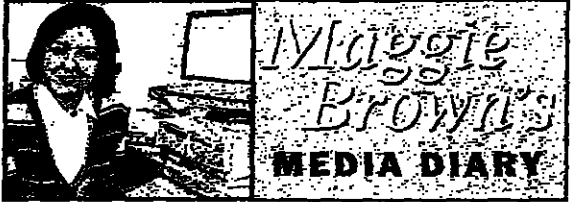
Meanwhile, ponder this: 6.9 million tuned in for *News at Ten's* Ugandan murders reports.

firmly he is out of the race for Director-General of the BBC by providing written guarantees to his board that he will not apply for the job.

■ HUGE sighs of relief among British comedy makers. ITV's desperate attempt to revive the genre, by asking top US experts Carsey Werner to make *Days Like These* for it in Britain, has produced another flop. The series has only been scheduled up to March 15. Paul Jackson, the BBC's head of entertainment, says: "It goes to prove that it's difficult producing domestic comedy in the UK at the moment."

to the kind of paper Preston ran. Working on *The Guardian* as I did in the 1980s was a dispiriting experience for anyone who wasn't male and Oxbridge too. Shyamana Pereira, one of Preston's three, who had two stints trying to further herself before ending in defeat in 1989, says: "As a black woman I was unskilled at playing the white, male Oxbridge game, and they were certainly not queuing up to give me the rules." For a liberal paper, it seemed odd.

■ LAST week I wrote that ITV's drama reconstruction of the news of the Stephen Lawrence murder performed poorly because it was broadcast a week too early. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, says it was meant to coincide with the publication of the report but that came out later than expected. It was not a victim of a macho male scheduling game. But it illustrates how carefully crafted programmes can fail to make an impact, through simple scheduling mistakes.



Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

■ THIS week *The Guardian* ran an odd piece from former editor Peter Preston about his difficulties in recruiting black and Asian journalists — he tallied only three — though his successor of the past four years, Alan Rusbridger, has done much better. But it all boils down

Stephen Lawrence murder performed poorly because it was broadcast a week too early. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, says it was meant to coincide with the publication of the report but that came out later than expected. It was not a victim of a macho male scheduling game. But it illustrates how carefully crafted programmes can fail to make an impact, through simple scheduling mistakes.



Unfunny: the sitcom, *Days Like This*, has flopped

## Facing the Net threat

When I first knew Greg Hadfield he was a young reporter on *The Western Morning News*, fresh from Oxford, with obvious talent and a baby son who was a computer freak when he was just out of nappies. Fifteen years later, Hadfield and Tom, that baby son, run the world's most popular football website, Soccer-net, and Hadfield also owns Schools-Net, a virtual school on the Web.

Four years ago, when he was 11, Tom started a Saturday night soccer results website from his home in Brighton. Now it is owned by the *Daily Mail* and is one of the world's top 50 websites. He will be a millionaire before he leaves university. Success and fortune couldn't come to a nicer family and the extraordinary story of the Hadfields should be studied by every editor who worries about the "threat" from the Net.

That worry surfaced this week when a colleague on the sports desk, who had suddenly realised that football fans could get reports of matches on the Net within an hour of the final whistle, asked why any of them should bother to buy a Sunday or Monday newspaper.

By 7pm on Saturday nights Soccer-net is running *Mail on Sunday* match reports, and there are also reports on individual club websites. On Wednesday night about 100,000 Manchester United fans around the world got a 1,700-word running commentary on Soccer-net, as well as the results of the other European matches. Yesterday it was receiving 300 votes an hour on who would win the Champions League. Why bother going to a newspaper Internet site for sport?

With the Internet, says *Observer* columnist John Naughton, we have hitched a ride on a rocket and none of us has any clue where it is headed. None of the newspaper Internet gurus would quarrel with that assessment. What they do believe, sincerely, is that newspapers have got to be astride the rocket.

Hadfield, who worked on *Today*, *The Sunday Times*, *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express* and loves newspapers, has been depressed by the Little Englander lack of enterprise shown by British newspaper groups. They have been so reluctant to embrace new media that they have missed an opportunity to become global players. They will soon be exposed to American conglomerates who will be

parking their tanks in Britain, he believes.

That British conservatism is shown in the vivid contrast between the Internet editions of British and American newspapers. Each British newspaper, moreover, has opted for a different strategy. The Internet edition of *The Times* reproduces the total newspaper, but is developing micro sites; *Guardian Unlimited* consists of micro sites with live news; *Electronic Telegraph* is a mix of the two.



Brian MacArthur

Each is successful, with 1.8 million registered users of *The Times*, more than a million regular users of the *Telegraph*, and 200,000 registrations within two months for *The Guardian*.

Americans, by contrast, are producing dedicated Net newspapers. *The Wall Street Journal* has 60 reporters worldwide working 24 hours a day for its constantly updated *Interactive Journal*. It can be set up to deliver a personal profile of news and quotes and has separate entrances for America, Asia and Europe ([wsj.com](http://wsj.com)). On *The New York Times* site, news is updated every ten minutes. It offers a 365-day archive, a free library of 50,000 book reviews and exclusive Web reports on books and technology ([nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)).

Any first-rate daily newspaper without its own first-rate newswire would eventually have to buy or build one. Peter Karn, the chairman of Dow Jones, which owns the *Journal*, gave warning this week. "Otherwise newspapers, which are so distinctive every morning, will, on the Internet, become the same wire copy by the end of the day. That's the case with many newspapers on the Web today, which are the *Daily Bugle* by morning and the *Associated Press* by night."

Hadfield would agree with the drift of Mr Karn's comments. New media in Britain, he says, is often led either by staff who know something about new media, but nothing about journalism, or by journalists who are ignorant of new media — and sometimes by technicians who know nothing about journalism at all. Defensive strategies intended to ring-fence the British market won't work because they won't make money.

Is Hadfield too pessimistic? John Naughton's iron law is that we always over-estimate the long-term impact of new technologies — and my own experience with *Today* in 1985-86 suggests that newspapers using new media can try to fly too high, too soon. British newspapers may be right to make haste slowly.



On the ball: Soccer-net on Wednesday

Internet editions are capturing young, promiscuous or overseas readers who don't or cannot buy newspapers and are establishing the attraction of a brand. By starting to publish Web links from important news stories, *The Times* becomes a search engine to the wealth of information on the Net. E-mail addresses at the end of columns have proved a remarkable success: after their recent columns on the euro in *The Times*, Mary Ann Sieghart and Anatole Kaletsky have been swamped with up to a hundred e-mails.

Few editors are complacent about the Net, but most also believe in Naughton's iron law. So, as the world explodes with information, they argue that newspapers must act as sieves, selecting the blend of information and entertainment that suits their brand. Newspapers and the Net can coexist. Yes, they might say, you can read *Mail on Sunday* match reports on Soccer-net on Saturday nights, but *Mail on Sunday* sales are still up 43,000 on a year ago.

### AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

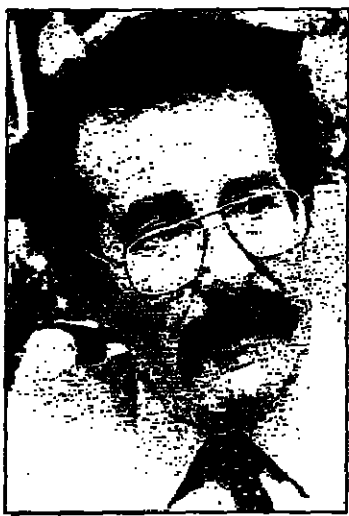
## WHAT WILL WE BE LIKE IN THE YEAR 2050?



David Starkey



Susan Greenfield



Robert Winston



Michio Kaku

Four distinguished contributors to *The Sunday Times Chronicle of the Future*, David Starkey, the historian and broadcaster, Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution, Robert Winston, the in-vitro fertilisation pioneer, and Michio Kaku, the author of *Visions*, will take part in a debate on how science and society will change our lives in the next 50 years. Will we become a race of super-beings, genetically enhanced and intellectually superior? At a time of political upheaval could England emerge as a super-state?

**Wednesday, March 10, at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.**

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CHANGING TIMES



# A crisp approach to cable

Raymond Snoddy talks to Tony Illsey, the salted snacks man who turned telecoms evangelist

These days, when you ring the headquarters of Telewest, one of the big three cable companies, an extraordinary thing happens. The call is answered quickly.

Cable companies such as Telewest have had a terrible reputation in the past for the service they have provided. "Just six months ago we were answering only 74 per cent of all calls received, and of those only 64 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," says Tony Illsey, who came from running Walkers Crisps, a company that has won most of the marketing prizes going, to be chief executive of Telewest. He was the first executive with top-notch marketing experience to take charge of a cable company. "Last month our total calls answered were well into 90 per cent, of which 82 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," he says.

The transformation was achieved by focusing senior managers on the issue at a meeting every Tuesday when they knew the call numbers would be reviewed. "The whole team know their first priority is to make sure that they are not going to be embarrassed during that meeting," says Illsey, who often rings the

call centres pretending to be a member of the public. Apart from "crunching together" Telewest with General Cable and Birmingham Cable last year, Illsey says his priority has been to make basic things work.

There has been another change to the company during the chief executive's reign. When Illsey took over, his mother spent £200 on Telewest shares at 130p, the first shares she had ever bought. They now stand at 270p.

## the media interview

The difference is not entirely due to Mrs Illsey's son. The surge in the share of the telecommunications sector has pulled shares of cable companies up with them. Illsey has also taken over at a time when cable is being taken more seriously and the balance of power between the industry and its satellite rival BSkyB has been shifting its way.

Five years ago, satellite dishes outnumbered cable connections by three to one. There were 2.5 million dishes against 800,000 cable TV subscriptions. By the end of last year, cable had added two million homes while satellite had added only one million.

Illsey, who can tell where anyone was brought up by the brand of crisps they eat, has high hopes



Cable boss Tony Illsey often rings Telewest call centres pretending to be a member of the public

that the gap will be further eroded by the company's "millennium package". For £12.99 a month subscribers get a telephone line and 14 television channels, including the five terrestrial ones, as well as Sky One, Eurosport, the Cartoon Network and Sky News.

The package is already successful in such areas as Newcastle, and in the next few months it will be introduced to the General Cable franchises in London and Slough, and at Birmingham Cable. "It is the single biggest driver of the momentum now in the company," says Illsey, who became a management trainee with Colgate after doing a business degree.

He was five years in Japan for Pepsi, which he describes as life-changing. "I learnt the importance of having a vision for a business and communicating the hell out of it so that everyone knows exactly what it is about and what they have to do," he says.

Illsey wants to see maximum flexibility in services offered to customers. Soon after arriving he expressed surprise at the small attempt to segment the market and to understand customers' needs. "There are five types of Walkers Crisps," he says, "and 18 flavours, many with regional differences. There are four bag sizes for different ages, sexes and occasions. And these items cost 25p or 50p."

Eighteen flavours may be too many for cable, but last year, even excluding the newly acquired companies, Telewest added 170,000 homes. It now has 1.4 million subscribers despite BT's "win back" campaign. "What they don't reveal is that they are still losing to Telewest more telephone customers than they claim to be winning back," says Illsey.

The chief executive plans to introduce digital cable packages at the end of this year. The launch of SkyDigital and QNdigital, the

terrestrial service, have created, he believes, such awareness about pay television that cable will be able to take maximum advantage when it launches services such as fast Internet access.

Cable modems will, Illsey says, make the Internet available on impulse, just like television. Above all, cable will be able to offer a range of services now becoming commercially feasible, such as video-on-demand — the ability to choose from a library of hundreds of feature films.

In America last week Illsey saw another possible cable offering, an electronic book that can store up to ten books at a time from an Internet site. "Where a novel might take 15 minutes to download over a phone line, it will take 15 seconds with a cable modem," says Illsey. But that is a little way off yet. Before that is the battle to establish Telewest as the benchmark of customer service.

## Wanted: heavy mettle PR

A RESOURCEFUL operator is being sought for one of the country's toughest PR assignments. PR Week reports that, after a run of poor publicity, the Diana Memorial Fund is hunting for its first in-house PR and communications head. Since it was established in September 1997, just after the Princess's death, the fund has been involved in rows over the high fees paid to its lawyers, the use of Diana's name on a low-fat spread and lottery scratch-card and, most recently, the dismissal of Paul Morrell, the Princess's former butler. A PR practitioner describes the job as "a bit of a poisoned chalice".

THE Advertising Association has warned the Government against allowing the Food Standards Agency to censor advertising, says Campaign. The AA is worried that the agency will be hijacked by health-eating pressure groups bent on warning consumers off certain products. Unconvinced by assurances from Jeff Rooker, the minister responsible for food safety, the association is drawing up battle plans. "Commercial advertising is not a tool for social policy or social engineering," says Sara Price, the AA's head of public affairs.

THE BBC's first dedicated promotion for *EastEnders* will begin today, Marketing reports, with slots on all television and radio channels. The campaign has been masterminded by Maureen Duffy, who joined the BBC last year from J. Walter Thompson. It is part of an attempt to stem the drift of peak-time viewers from BBC1 to ITV, which could accelerate next week when *News at Ten* disappears.

ESTHER RANTZEN, keen to remain untarnished by the row over fake talk-show guests, has written to Broadcast pointing out that her BBC2 programme has had no allegations made against it. She writes about "the positive good" achieved by tackling important subjects

through first-hand experiences. "We should recognise the strength and value of talk shows when they are well made," she says.

THE LAUNCH PAD: Associated Newspapers delays launch of free London daily *Metro* to March 15 and cuts print run from 350,000 to 100,000; EMAP's new weekly *Heat* hits 100,000 sales target (Marketing); Mirror Group abandons plan to relaunch *Sporting Life* (Campaign); *Mix*, dedicated to women's writing, to launch on Monday; EMAP plans new magazine edited by Sharon Ring, former editor of *OK* (Press Gazette). Indefinite delay to launch of *Crime Weekly* by Canal (Media Week).

GETTING THE BUSINESS: J. Walter Thompson wins £15 million account for cable TV and telecoms firm NTL; Publicis to handle £3 million campaign for McVitie's, introducing Jaffa Cakes in a resealable tube; Lever Bros signs £1 million deal to sponsor ITV's *Stars in Their Eyes*, promoting Radion washing powder (Marketing); Sega returns to former agency WCRS to launch new Dreamcast computer games console; Mustoe Merriman Herring Levy wins £3 million account for Norwich Union investment fund; Fuji plans to appoint Wunderman Cato Johnson to £3 million account (Campaign).

CHANGING FACES: Andy Zonfrillo, broadcast director at Leo Burnett, to be TV buying director for MindShare; Gerry Roads quits as European marketing director for Del Monte (Marketing Week); Documentary-maker Paul Watson leaves Granada for United Productions (Broadcast); Bates Dorlands account executive Adam Leigh promoted to deputy managing director (Campaign); Giles Peatman from Unilever to be Classic FM's first dedicated marketing manager (Media Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION



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### HOW TO PLAY

Choose a team of six racing drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, below. Entry lines are open now or you can take part by post. Select your team carefully. When one of your drivers wins a grand prix you score 60 points and there are 30 points for the winning constructor. There are also 30 points for starting at the front of the grid. In addition six races, starting with the Brazilian Grand Prix, each carry up to 600 bonus points in our game for the team managers who can correctly predict any of the first three drivers to cross the finishing line. Bad driving and failing to finish will incur penalties. A black flag loses you 20 points.

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MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

### DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 Mika Hakkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	12 Ralf Schumacher	18 Jarno Trulli
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 H-H. Frentzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gené	*Replaces Norberto Fontana

### CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 McLaren	25 Williams	29 Arrows	31 Stewart
24 Ferrari	26 Jordan	30 BAR	32 Prost
	28 Sauber		33 Minardi

24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0640 67 88 88  
+44 870 901 4206 outside the UK

Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touchtone telephone (most telephones with \* and # keys are Touchtone). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter at any time until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

### TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland must call 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from RoI). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made by Touchtone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Then give your team name (up to 16 characters) and details. You can enter until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

### TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, April 7, 1999.

Postcard: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 485, Virginia Street, London E1 6RY

### THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP.

<b>GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS</b> 1st <input type="text"/> 2nd <input type="text"/> 3rd <input type="text"/> 4th <input type="text"/> 5th <input type="text"/> 6th <input type="text"/> 7th <input type="text"/> 8th <input type="text"/> 9th <input type="text"/> 10th <input type="text"/> 11th <input type="text"/> 12th <input type="text"/>			Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials _____ Age _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Day tel _____ Credit Card Payment Card number: _____ Expiry date <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Name on card _____ Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above Signature _____ Date _____
<b>GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS</b> 1st <input type="text"/> 2nd <input type="text"/> 3rd <input type="text"/> 4th <input type="text"/> 5th <input type="text"/> 6th <input type="text"/> 7th <input type="text"/> 8th <input type="text"/> 9th <input type="text"/> 10th <input type="text"/> 11th <input type="text"/> 12th <input type="text"/>			Team Name (maximum of 16 characters) _____ I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game. Signature _____ Date _____

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?  
 Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐  
 Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐  
 Don't usually buy The Times ☐  
 2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?  
 3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?  
 4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐ TT

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# How much do they earn a year?

<p><b>£300,000</b></p>  <p><b>MICHAEL BUEK</b> Programme: BBC News at 10 Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£150,000</b></p>  <p><b>ANNA FUNDER</b> Programme: BBC One 9 o'clock News Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£300,000</b></p>  <p><b>PETER SISSONS</b> Programme: BBC Nine O'Clock News Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£150,000</b></p>  <p><b>HUW EDWARDS</b> Programme: BBC Six O'Clock News Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>
<p><b>£1,000,000</b></p>  <p><b>TREVOR McDONALD</b> Programme: BBC News at 6.30pm Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£180,000</b></p>  <p><b>DERMOT MURNAGHAN</b> Programme: BBC News at 11pm Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£200,000</b></p>  <p><b>JON SNOW</b> Programme: Channel 4 News Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>	<p><b>£500,000</b></p>  <p><b>KIRSTY YOUNG</b> Programme: 5 News Audience: 5.2 million (average) Style: Friendly, approachable, and a bit of a joker. He is the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times. He is also the only presenter to have been on the front cover of the Sunday Times.</p>

As the battle of the news bulletins begins, the presenters are being turned into stars with salaries to match, says Carol Midgley

Tonight, as Trevor McDonald utters his last "And finally..." and News at Ten is laid to rest, the battle of the news bulletins, once regarded as the dowdy sister of current-affairs programmes and documentaries, will take centre stage as executives fight tooth and nail for the teatime news viewer.

From Monday, the Six O'Clock News will be ambushed by ITV's spanking new ITV Evening News at 6.30pm. A week later Channel 5 will launch a more minor offensive by moving 5 News from 7pm to 6pm in the hope that the telegenic Kirsty Young will lure viewers away from the BBC's Welsh anchorman Huw Edwards.

The Nine O'Clock News will remain much as it is, fronted by the heavyweights Peter Sissons and Michael Buerk. But the industry will be watching keenly to see how many viewers ITN's new ITV Nightly News will draw in at the late hour of 11pm. ITV is hoping that the ratings will be helped by the fact that it is being presented by the rising stars of ITN: Dermot Murnaghan and Katie Derham.

The BBC is also nurturing a rising star, Huw Edwards, who was recently plucked from the obscurity of News 24 to head the battle of the new Six O'Clock News this spring. The Six O'Clock News relaunches on May 10 with the promise of a warmer, more informal bulletin with a dedicated "family" of specialists and reporters who, the BBC hopes, will soon become as familiar to viewers as their living-room furniture.

Executives at BBC news are irritated by the fact that other news programmes are now "crowding" around the hallowed spot of 6pm in the race for ratings. Their argument is that the viewer loses out as rival broadcasters limit the number of times a day that people can get news on terrestrial channels.

Only Channel 4 News appears to be keeping out of the battle. Despite a relaunch this year, rumoured to have cost £3 million, which has resulted in a multicoloured studio and flashes of Jon Snow's socks as he sits behind a trendy, low-slung desk, it is staying at 7pm.

However, much more than ratings is at stake. Broadcasters want their presenters, even their correspondents, to be stars. The successful newscaster of the future will be regarded as one who is recognised as readily as the mighty Trevor McDonald; their audience figures will be watched almost as keenly as the ratings for Coronation Street and EastEnders.

As the value of newscasters rises in the modern age, so will their salaries. The pay of newscasters varies enormously, and usually reflects how many rival broadcasters have tried to poach them. The Times has conducted its own research into the current salaries of our leading newscasters, a notoriously secretive area.

We have been forced to rely on a number of unofficial briefings and anonymous sources, so apologies to those we may be under- or over- paying.

## Fighting for the viewers

Whatever else you plan to do this evening, try to spare the time to take part in a small piece of broadcasting history, by watching the very last edition of News at Ten.

The decision by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to allow the ITV companies to move the news and change the schedule was controversial for a day or so. But apart from the harrumphings of a few newspaper columnists bemoaning the death of public service broadcasting as we know it, the life went out of the row remarkably quickly. There were no marches to save News at Ten, although those responsible for its success will doubtless shed a well-lubricated tear tonight when the last bulletin is over at 10.30pm.

A postscript to the debate has been supplied today by Sir David Nicholas, the former chief executive of Independent Television News, in a letter to The Times. Much to his irritation, he has found out that one of the influential voices in the 7-3 majority in favour of killing off News at Ten was that of his old friend and rival Sir Michael Checkland. Sir Michael, now a member of the ITC, is the former Director-General of the BBC.

The publicity surrounding the move is still a little difficult to stomach — even for a re-

dedicated news programme, Sky News at Ten O'Clock, which launches on Monday.

The problem for ITN will be to hold on to anything like a 12.4 million news audience after the disappearance of its flagship. What if Trevor McDonald does really well at 6.30pm because he is a likeable chap and people know what he stands for, and adds two million viewers to ITV's teatime total — raising its figures to about 6.7 million? Dermot Murnaghan would do well to attract a three million-plus audience to the 11pm news. Which would mean, of course, that overall ITV could lose 2.5 million viewers.

The new regime will take a while to settle down and ITV figures could be poor until viewers get used to the new schedules. When they do, ITV could emerge victorious at tea-time, while the BBC could gain considerably with the Nine O'Clock News, which is being given a free run between the Channel 4 News at 7pm and the new 11pm news.

The nature of news agendas — as well as the impact of high-profile presenters — will have a considerable influence on the battle for viewers. A tea-time agenda — domestic news with a popular touch — is likely to develop as a result of the bunching of bulletins around 6pm and 6.30pm. Channel 5 News is making its second move, this time to 6pm.

As a result, we might have to wait until 9pm or 11pm for serious news on the main channels. This offers an opportunity for the BBC with the "Nine" but, as usual, the Beeb seems to be taking a half-decent idea and treating it in too mechanistic a way. More foreign stories are fine, but on some evenings this week the top three stories have all been foreign — Uganda, Sierra Leone and Indonesia. By having too high a quota of foreign stories, the BBC could fail to take advantage of the opportunity presented on a plate by ITV.

Thanks are due to Lord Huxley of North Bradley, the former Chairman of the BBC, for implicitly backing my campaign, launched last week, to become Director-General of the BBC. In the Lords on Wednesday, he vigorously took up the attack on bloated policy units, overuse of management consultants and far too much money being spent on new digital channels. This is an entirely positive development. It is our licence fee money, after all.



Raymond Snoddy

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ABC MONTH ON MONTH COMPARISONS				
TITLE	Dec '98	Jan '99	Actual change	% Ch
Sunday Mail	2,318,267	2,342,694	24,427	1.1
Daily Mail	618,534	630,064	11,530	1.9
Daily Star	1,039,840	1,040,140	300	0
Daily Telegraph	1,068,844	1,103,813	34,969	3.3
Express	973,845	1,009,683	35,837	3.7
Sunday Express	385,574	384,679	-895	-0.2
Financial Times	390,514	399,152	8,638	2.2
Sunday Times	218,389	219,549	1,160	0.5
Independent	249,846	262,587	12,741	5.1
Independent on Sunday	228,150	229,247	1,097	0.4
Mail on Sunday	2,214,981	2,288,373	73,392	3.3
Sunday Mirror	1,670,347	1,734,594	64,247	3.8
Sunday People	809,923	810,587	664	0.1
Sunday Telegraph	1,305,589	1,371,669	66,080	5.1
Sunday Times	729,084	746,317	17,233	2.4
THE TOTAL	26,247,411	27,265,592	1,022,181	3.9

THE circulation of most national newspapers has fallen year on year for the six months to January 1999, with The Independent suffering the greatest loss — down 14.6 per cent to 219,549.

The Financial Times was one of the titles to buck the trend, enjoying a 12.3 per cent increase in circulation. Other newspapers to increase their circulation year on year were the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday and The Sunday Times.

Month on month comparisons, however, paint a different picture of the national newspaper market, with all titles except the Financial Times showing increases in circulation for December.

Sport First, which launched last March, has enjoyed a 37.1 per cent increase on its launch circulation, reaching 84,378, substantially higher than that of Sunday Business, which hit the streets a month earlier.

MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7575).

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

## WAKING NED

### EXCLUSIVE PREVIEWS



● Complimentary tickets ● 76 venues

This week The Times has teamed up with 20th Century Fox to offer readers the chance to see an exclusive preview screening of *Waking Ned* on Sunday morning, March 14 (exact times will be on the ticket). The film, a raucous modern fairy tale, was a surprise hit at the Cannes Film Festival and won rave reviews when it opened in America at Christmas. Inspired by a true story, *Waking Ned* follows the comic exploits of two friends as they stumble into a lottery scam of hilarious proportions.

For a FREE ticket, which admits two, collect five differently numbered tokens, attach them to the completed voucher right and present them at the cinema box office of your choice, from those listed below before March 13. Tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. *Waking Ned* opens nationwide on March 19.

#### PARTICIPATING CINEMAS

**UCI CINEMAS** Basildon; Bracknell; Derby; Gateshead; Hatfield; Lee Valley; Milton Keynes; Preston; Sheffield; Solihull; Surrey Quays; London SE1; Sutton; Tamworth; Telford; Warrington; Whiteley; London W2; Newcastle WALKER; Cardiff; Swansea

**ODEON CINEMAS** Birmingham; Blackpool; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bromborough; Chesham; Chesham; Colchester; Hemel Hempstead; Holloway; Hull; Kensington; London W8; Kettering; Leeds; Leicester; Lincoln; Liverpool (Swish); Maidstone; Manchester; Nottingham; Romford; Sheffield; Southend; Stoke on Trent; Streatham; London SW16; Taunton; Worcester; Tyneside; Walsley; Weymouth; WIMBORNE; Woking; Wrexham

**WARNER CINEMAS** Acton; Basingstoke; Bolton; Bristol; Bury; Cambridge; Croydon; Dagenham; Doncaster; Finchley; Harrow; Leeds; Leicester; Newcastle; Preston; Sheffield; Thurrock; Watford; York

#### THE TIMES WAKING NED PREVIEW

For your free ticket, present this voucher, with five differently numbered tokens from The Times attached, to one of the participating cinemas before March 13.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into?

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Which day of the week do you usually go to the cinema?

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## House of Lords

## Law Report March 5 1999

## Court of Appeal

## Demonstration not trespassory assembly

**Director of Public Prosecutions v Jones and Another**  
Before Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton  
[Speeches March 4]

A peaceful, non-obstructive assembly of 21 persons on the verge of the A34 at Stonehenge, found by the trial court to have been a reasonable use of the highway, had not been a trespassory assembly within the meaning of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The House of Lords (Lord Slynn and Lord Hope dissenting) allowed an appeal by Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd from the Crown Court, Divisional Court, Lord Justice Mummery and Mr Justice Collins (The Times January 27, 1997; [1998] QB 563), which had allowed an appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions by case stated from Salisbury Crown Court (Judge Webster, QC and Justices).

The Crown Court had allowed the defendants' appeal against their conviction by Salisbury Justices of trespassory assembly contrary to section 14B(3) of the 1994 Act. The trial judge found that the defendants had been in the Stonehenge area during the period in question.

On the evening of June 1, 1995 a police inspector had counted 21 people on the roadside verge adjacent to the perimeter fence of the monument. Some had been carrying banners with legends such as "Free Stonehenge". He had told them that they constituted a trespassory assembly and asked them to move off. Some, including the defendants, had remained and been arrested.

The Crown Court had held that none of the group had been "destructive, violent, disorderly, threatening a breach of the peace or, on the evidence, doing anything other than reasonably using the highway".

It had been assumed for the purposes of the appeal to the Divisional Court that the group had not created an obstruction and not constituted a public nuisance. Section 14A(3) of the 1994 Act prohibited, as a trespassory assembly, an assembly that took place "so as to exceed the limits of the public's rights of access".

Section 14A(9) defined a "limited" right of access as meaning that the public's use of it was "restricted to use for a particular purpose (as in the case of a highway or road)".

The central issue thus turned on the interpretation of (i) what were the "limits" of the public's right of access to the public highway at common law; and (ii) what was the "particular purpose" for which the public had a right to use the highway.

In broad terms the basis of the Divisional Court's decision was the proposition that the public's right of access to the highway was limited to the right to pass and repass and to do anything incidental or ancillary to that right. A peaceful assembly was not so incidental.

That was founded on authorities including *Harrison v Duke of Rutland* [1893] 1 QB 142 and *Hickman v Maisey* [1900] 1 QB 752.

The question was whether the law today should recognise that the public highway was a public place on which all manner of reasonable activities might go on.

In his Lordship's opinion it should. Provided those activities were reasonable, did not involve the commission of a public or private nuisance and did not amount to an obstruction of the highway unreasonably impeding the primary right of the general public to pass and repass, they should not constitute a trespass. Subject to those qualifications, there would be a right of peaceful assembly on the highway.

To limit lawful use of the highway to that which was literally "incidental or ancillary" to the right of passage would be to place an unrealistic and unwarranted restriction on the public's day-to-day activities on the highway.

The public highway was a public place that the public might enjoy for any reasonable purpose. It was for the magistrates in every case to decide as a matter of fact and degree whether the use had been reasonable and not inconsistent with the right to pass and repass.

LORD SLYNN, dissenting, said that on existing authority the law was clear: the right of the public on the highway was restricted to passage and any reasonable incidental use associated with passage.

The defendants' argument in effect involved giving the public the right to wander over or stay on land for such a period and in such numbers as they chose so long as they wished to pass and repass, without obstruction or hindrance and so a matter of public right.

LORD CLYDE said that the defendants' argument and the reasoning of the Crown Court had gone far beyond the limits of the law. It was then necessary to consider that any reasonable use of the highway, provided that it was peaceful and not obstructive, was lawful and so a matter of public right.

Such an approach opened a door of uncertainty dimensions into an ill-defined area of uses that might erode the basic predominance of the essential use of a highway as a highway.

The test as to whether the public's right of access to the highway had been exceeded could not be defined in general terms but had to depend on the circumstances as a matter of degree. It required a careful assessment of the nature and extent of the activity in question.

If the purpose of the activity became the predominant purpose of the occupation of the highway, or if the occupation became more than reasonably transitional in terms of either time or space, it might come to exceed the right to use the highway.

The matter was essentially one to be judged in the light of the particular facts of the case, but his Lordship was prepared to hold that a peaceful assembly that did not obstruct the highway did not necessarily constitute a trespassory assembly.

LORD HUTTON said that the holding of a public assembly on a highway could constitute a reasonable use of it and so not constitute a trespass, but his Lordship's opinion that the appeal should be allowed was based on the Crown Court's finding that the assembly in which the defendants had taken part on that particular highway at that particular time had been a reasonable use of the highway.

He would not hold that a peaceful and non-obstructive public assembly on a highway was always a reasonable use and therefore not a trespass.

Solicitors: Mr Philip Leach, Southwark; Douglas & Partners, Bristol; Crown Prosecution Service, Central Casework.

**Manchester Airport plc v Dutton and Others**  
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws  
[Judgment February 23]

A licensee with a right to occupy land was entitled to claim possession against a trespasser, whether or not that licensee was in actual occupation of the land, if that was a necessary remedy to give effect to the rights of occupation he enjoyed under the licence.

The summary procedure in Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was available to a licensee not in occupation of the land to enforce his rights under the licence against a trespasser. There was no requirement of exclusive possession of the land in order to claim a summary remedy.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Chadwick dissenting. The appeal of the appellants against the decision of the trial judge in *Manchester Airport plc v Dutton* was allowed.

The appellants, Manchester Airport plc, sought possession of the airport land occupied by the respondents, who were claiming possession of the land under a licence granted by the airport.

The trial judge found that the respondents were in actual occupation of the land and that the appellants were entitled to possession of the land under the licence.

The appellants appealed, claiming that the respondents were not in actual occupation of the land and that the appellants were entitled to possession of the land under the licence.

The principal objection was that the grant of such relief would amount to an ejectment, a remedy available to a party with title to or estate in the land, which as mere licensees the company plainly lacked. That was the old law.

The House of Lords heard the appeal of the appellants against the decision of the trial judge in *Manchester Airport plc v Dutton*. The appellants claimed that the respondents were not in actual occupation of the land and that the appellants were entitled to possession of the land under the licence.

The trial judge found that the respondents were in actual occupation of the land and that the appellants were entitled to possession of the land under the licence.

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The appellants appealed, claiming that the respondents were not in actual occupation of the land and that the appellants were entitled to possession of the land under the licence.

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## Referring to Europe a point already decided

**Trent Taverns Ltd v Sykes**  
Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Chadwick  
[Judgment January 22]

The Court of Appeal could, in the exercise of its discretion, make a reference to the European Court of Justice in a case where the relevant point of Community law had already been decided by the Court of Appeal, as the ordinary domestic principles of stare decisis were not applicable to such references.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Mr Ian Sykes, the defendant, from the decision of Mr Justice David Steel, on February 18, 1998, of his counterclaim against the plaintiffs, Trent Taverns Ltd, by reason of the provisions of article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty (now 107(1) of the Treaty).

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remedy under national law, that court or tribunal shall bring the matter before the Court of Justice".

Mr Alan Tyrell, QC, and Mr Beckett Bedford for Mr Sykes; Mr James Flynn for Trent Taverns.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the appellants was the lessor of a public house in Biddford on Avon.

The plaintiffs, the lessors, took proceedings against him for breach of the terms of the lease, which contained a beer requiring him to purchase all requirements of beer from the lessors or its nominees.

Trent Taverns applied to strike out part of the counterclaim, including the allegation that by reason of the provisions of article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty (now 107(1) of the Treaty), the appellants were liable to pay for beer and other damages.

In striking out, the judge had held that the prohibition in article 85(1) was imposed for the protection of potential competitors, not for the benefit of or protection of the parties to the agreement; and that Mr Sykes, as lessee, was a person who was himself a party to the anti-competitive bargain which the prohibition sought to prevent and so could have no remedy.

He expressed himself fortified by the fact that that conclusion had been reached by other judges at first instance: *Innkeeper Estates (CFC) plc v Milne* (Mr Justice Mitchell); *Innkeeper Estates (EG) Ltd v Singh* (Sir Peter Pain); *Scottish and Newcastle plc v*

*Bonds* (Judge Peter Crawford, QC); and *Matthew Brown plc v Campbell* (Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC).

The judge said: "For good measure, I have considerable sympathy with the submissions of Mr Nicholas Green, QC, counsel for the plaintiffs, that enough is enough. This point has now been taken, always unsuccessfully, before a range of tribunals. It must now be regarded as settled at first instance. Thus, those seeking to rely on the point must expect to find it dealt with summarily pending any expression of dissent from the Court of Appeal."

The judge dealt in similar terms with the appellants' restitutionary claim. He expressed himself as fortified in his conclusion that that claim, also, was unarguable by the decision of Judge Anthony Thompson, QC, in *Gibbs Mew plc v Gemmell*. He held that both the claim for damages and the claim for restitution were bound to fail.

Since February 18, 1998 when Mr Justice David Steel gave judgment, *Gibbs Mew plc v Gemmell* had been the subject of Court of Appeal [1998] Eu LR 588.

In giving the lead judgment Lord Justice Peter Gibson said: "The proposition that a breach of article 85 gives rise to a claim by a party to an offending agreement in damages or restitution has been rejected by the High Court in a series of unreported decisions... In my judgment those judgments were entirely right to do so."

The first question was whether a decision on such question of Community law was necessary to enable the court to give judgment in the appeal before it. His Lordship would answer that question in the affirmative.

It was submitted that the observations of Lord Justice Peter Gibson on the effect of article 85, which the other members of the court concurred, were obiter. His Lordship did not agree.

Mr Tyrell accepted that he was unlikely to persuade the court that it should reach a decision inconsistent with *Gibbs Mew*. His principal submission was that the court should not reach a decision at all without first seeking ruling on the relevant points of Community law from the Court of Justice pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In support of that submission he deployed arguments which, if accepted, would lead to the conclusion that the Court of Appeal was wrong in its decision in *Gibbs Mew* in the way that it did. His Lordship was attracted, at one point, to the proposition that it would be inappropriate to make a reference for the reason that the relevant point of Community law had already been decided in *Gibbs Mew*, so that, on the ordinary domestic principles of stare decisis, the point must be regarded as closed at that level.

But he was persuaded that that simple approach would be inconsistent with the decision of the Court of Justice in Case 166/73

*Rheinmühlen-Düsseldorf v Einfuhr- und Vorratssstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel* ([1974] ECR 33).

The Court of Justice there decided that a rule of national law whereby a court was bound on points of law by the rulings of a superior court could not deprive the inferior courts of their power to refer to the Court of Justice questions of interpretation of Community law involving such rulings. The principle must apply, at least equally, to a case where the national court was bound by its own earlier ruling.

Nevertheless, he was satisfied that this was not a case where the court should seek a ruling from the Court of Justice.

First, although not conclusive, it was clearly relevant that the Court of Appeal had recently reached a clear conclusion on the same point. A petition for leave to appeal in *Gibbs Mew* was before the House of Lords and the question the court was asked to refer was squarely raised in that petition. In those circumstances it seemed wrong in principle to take a step which might be seen as pre-empting the decision of the House of Lords.

Second, the House of Lords might decide that the appropriate course was to refer the question before deciding whether or not to grant leave to appeal. In those circumstances there was nothing to be gained by having a separate reference now.

Third, it was relevant to have regard to the position which might develop in the present litigation. It could not be sensible to refer questions which might turn out to be wholly academic. There was to be a trial within the next two weeks of the question whether the lease which contained the beer tie had been rescinded.

For those reasons it would not be appropriate to make a reference. In the absence of a reference the court must, it seemed, follow its decision in *Gibbs Mew* and dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Ladders, Stratford-upon-Avon; Kimbell & Co, Milton Keynes.

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## Sentence for conspiracy to corrupt police officer

**Regina v Brown**  
**Regina v King**  
**Regina v Mahoney**  
Before Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice David Steel  
[Judgment February 3]

A starting point of nine years was appropriate for sentencing a former police officer in a case of conspiracy to corrupt a police officer.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing appeals by Raymond John Brown, Martin John King and Mark Mahoney against sentences imposed on March 27, 1998 at the Central Criminal Court by Judge Forester.

Lord Justice Auld, giving the judgment, said that the trial judge had properly emphasised Mr King's former role as a police officer, but the important point was his use of knowledge and contacts put to his own and others' advantage.

The critical question was what was or should have been a starting point for the overall sentence of Mr King, with credit for a plea of guilty, in the specific circumstances of the case.

His financial ruin, and the effect on him and his family were material considerations.

The trial judge's starting point might have been in the region of 13 years. In their Lordships' opinion nothing more than a starting sentence of nine years was appropriate in the circumstances.

Brown's sentence of three years imprisonment for conspiracy to corrupt a police officer was reduced to 21 months. King's concurrent sentence of nine years on two counts of conspiracy to corrupt a police officer and one count of corruption was reduced to a concurrent total of six years. Mahoney's concurrent total of five years was reduced to three and a half.

Mr John Nutting, QC, appeared for the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, and Mr Anne Johnston, pro bono, for Brown; Ms Sasha Wase, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for King; Mr Graham Henson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Mahoney.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment, said that the trial judge had properly emphasised Mr King's former role as a police officer, but the important point was his use of knowledge and contacts put to his own and others' advantage.

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## LEGAL &amp; PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**BAKER William Henry Cecil** late of 100, High Street, London E15 2JH, died on 25 January 1999. He was aged 82 years. His wife, Mary, died on 10 January 1999. His children are: Mrs. Mary Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. John Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Jane Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. David Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Susan Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Peter Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Robert Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Margaret Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Christopher Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Anne Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Thomas Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Patricia Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. James Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Barbara Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Richard Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Sandra Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Kenneth Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Helen Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Ronald Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Betty Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Stanley Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Doris Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Arthur Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Mary Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Frank Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Ruth Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Charles Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. William Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Margaret Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. John Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Jane Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. David Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Susan Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mr. Peter Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH; Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, 100, High Street, London E15 2JH



# EDUCATION

## How should we tackle poor teachers?

The incompetent teacher has become one of the bogeys of the Nineties, a stereotype to rival that of the long-suffering nurse and the untrustworthy politician — or journalist. Attention has centred on estimates of how many inadequate performers there are in British classrooms, rather than on how to identify them, let alone cope with the problem.

Parents who have had the misfortune to have a poor teacher in charge of their children will know that it is not always easy to pin down the shortcomings. A teacher may be uninspiring and lacklustre, but these are not sackable offences.

Too many glib statements about the defects of state schools assume that incompetence is not only rare, but obvious, and capable of only one remedy: dismissal.

Two studies published today illustrate some of the complexities facing head teachers and those judged to be incompetent. The reports are part of a larger study being carried out at Exeter University's School of Education. Without excusing incompetence or pretending that it does not exist, they question the criteria used to judge teachers, and the response of many schools.

Professor Ted Wragg, who is leading the research, is famously sympathetic to teachers and sceptical about their critics. His column in *The Times Educational Supplement* often lampoons ministers and inspectors for making what he regards as generalised and unsubstantiated allegations of incompetence. Today's reports, however, ask important questions for pupils and parents, as well as teachers.

The research looks at the treatment of incompetence from the point of view of those accused and the head teachers who have to deal with the issue. The sample — 654 heads and 70 self-selected teachers — though large, is not necessarily representative. But there are common threads running through both reports. Not surprisingly, most of the teachers accused of incompetence felt misjudged. Their explanations ranged from medical problems affecting their

work to racial discrimination, bullying and conspiracy theories. However, fewer than one in ten of those who had completed a disciplinary procedure were deemed to have improved sufficiently to remain in their posts. Many left before matters reached that stage.

Yet 26 of the 44 teachers in completed cases are now back in the classroom, albeit often in part-time or occasional work. Some wish that they had challenged the original allegation more vigorously, taking their subsequent employment as vindication, but Professor Wragg's survey cannot show which verdict was correct. Because the allegations concerned key skills such as the maintenance of discipline, lesson planning and inadequate progress by pupils, there must be a suspicion that

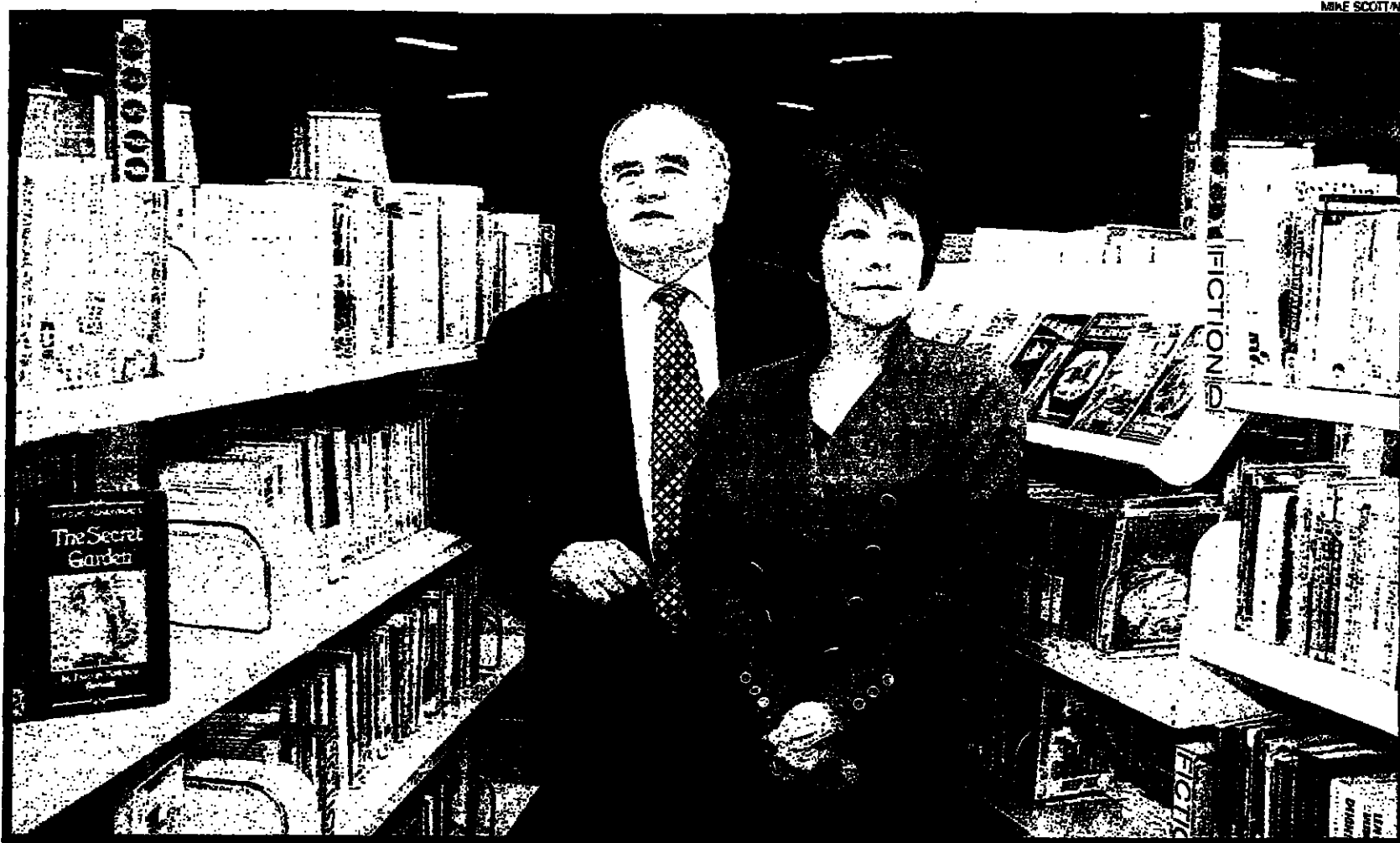
some at least are in the wrong job. The head teachers' responses also raise concerns about the way allegations of incompetence are handled. Many admitted that they should have acted sooner and, with almost half of the cases taking more than a year to resolve, would have welcomed swifter resolution. Only a third had any relevant training and needed more advice on employment law. A quarter of the teachers tackled by the heads in the survey improved enough to stay on, the rest eventually resigning or taking early retirement. But only 13 per cent were considered to have developed into good teachers, while 42 per cent were "acceptable".

Perhaps the most worrying trait to emerge is the sheer inconsistency of schools' responses. More than a third of the teachers said their school had no formal monitoring of performance and no procedure to deal with allegations of incompetence. One in six of the heads admitted that there had been no predetermined procedure to follow.

So far, teaching competence has been seen purely in terms of black and white. Today's reports suggest that there are shades of grey, and that a more systematic approach is needed if under-achievers are to be helped to improve and the no-hopers weeded out.



John O'Leary



Educational entrepreneurs Stanley Goodchild and Valerie Bragg "want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed... you have to give them some freedom and trust"

## The school Swat team

This couple say they can turn around a failing school. Simon Midgley investigates

A daunting task faces Stanley Goodchild and his wife Valerie Bragg as they prepare to turn around one of the worst state schools in England, but they are ready for the challenge. From September next year, 3E's Enterprises, the Birmingham company they manage, will run Kings Manor, a failing comprehensive in a rundown area of Guildford in Surrey.

Kings Manor was built to house 900 pupils, but student numbers have fallen to about 400 and, according to Ofsted, the school has dismal exam results, high absenteeism and exclusion, poor behaviour, low expectations, indifferent teaching and patchy leadership. However, Mr Goodchild and Ms Bragg, both 55, who have a strong record of saving failing schools and educating children from deprived backgrounds, are confident of success. Yet the dynamic educational entrepreneurs, who have generated millions of pounds in

commercial and industrial investment for their schools over the years, seem surprisingly self-effacing.

"It all goes to plan, Kings Manor is going to be oversubscribed a year or so after it reopens," Mr Goodchild says. "There is disbelief among some education folk in Guildford that anything is going to happen. It has been like that for 15 years," they say, "why is it going to change now? Well, they are going to be surprised."

Mr Goodchild may well be as good as his word. As a head teacher in the 1980s, he transformed Garth Hill, a run-down, vandal-ridden school in Bracknell, into one of the most technologically advanced schools in Europe. It became a forerunner of the Conservative Government's network of City Technology Colleges (CTCs), inner-city schools with curricula biased towards science, technology and mathematics.

Valerie Bragg, whom he married last year, also knows a thing or two about turning sows' ears into silk purses. In 1988 she became principal of Kingshurst, the first CTC, in an unprepossessing area of east Birmingham.

When she started, 83 per cent of students were leaving at 16. Now more than 90 per cent stay on and 40 per cent go on to university. The mystery, however, is precisely how they intend to turn Kings Manor around. It rapidly becomes apparent that few decisions have been made.

We know that the present school will close and its buildings will undergo a £1 million refurbishment in a conscious "re-branding" of the institution. It will re-

open next year as a voluntary-aided arts and technology college.

The couple will decide what steps to take only after talking to as many parents, teachers and others as possible. Mr Goodchild says there is no single table d'hôte answer for transforming a school's performance: rather one must choose from an à la carte menu.

While they may try to repeat some of the successful initiatives at Garth Hill (for example, school uniforms, discipline) and Kingshurst (the International Baccalaureate rather than A levels and a mix of vocational and academic education), they want to fashion their educational solutions to Kings Manor's precise needs.

Mr Goodchild adds that successful schools are "owned" by the community. "If you can create a school seen to evolve from the aspirations of the community," he says, "then it has a far better chance of survival or development. Everything is possible if parents share the vision of what the school will be like in future."

Ms Bragg says that there will probably be vocational, technological, scientific and arts education. She also expects that Kingshurst CTC and the Guildford college will pioneer new technologies such as video-conferencing to share teaching and expertise. It is hoped that it will develop strong links with businesses, hospitals and universities.

With the help of an advisory team, the couple will appoint the majority of the governors, a new head and staff. To some, the lack of an educational blueprint for Kings Manor might seem vaguely worrying. Ms

Bragg also talks in generalities. "It is not one thing," she says. "It involves raising the expectations of the students and making them believe that they can do it. To do that, you have got to give them some freedom and trust."

"You need a curriculum that excites, motivates and switches them on. And that curriculum will not be the same for every child. Too often children are forced to do things. I think you need to ask them what they want to do. It is a case of encouragement, praise and taking an interest, looking at their work."

"I mean, you have only to say to a child 'I am really impressed with what you are doing' to see them growing."

"It is also about involving the community — pupils, staff, everybody — in the vision. So what will actually emerge will be unique to Kings Manor."

3E's Enterprises, the commercial arm of Kingshurst CTC where Mr Goodchild is MD and Mrs Bragg a director, is being paid an undisclosed management fee until the day the college opens, after which payments will be related to performance targets, such as raising pupil numbers and improving exam results. Any future profits will be shared between Kings Manor and Kingshurst CTC.

The couple will not reap any financial benefit from the deal. "Let's face it," Ms Bragg said, "if we wanted to be rich we would have done something very different from education wouldn't we?"

So why are they doing it? "We believe passionately in education," she says. "I did not like school myself. I have this passion to make it enjoyable and interesting. We feel that too many children become switched off around the age of 12. They underachieve and in many cases regret it for the rest of their lives."

"What drives us is this feeling that we want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed."

I have this passion to make school enjoyable

## Weighed down by books

French pupils suffer from a heavy workload. Adam Sage reports

Sebastien Rougier staggered out of Lycée Michelet on the outskirts of Paris looking like a backpacker in the Himalayas. His rucksack was bulging, his legs were bowed.

"Sometimes it can be worse than this," Sebastien, 17, said, puffing. "Our parents spend about £150 a year on textbooks, which weigh us down and which we often don't use. All we get for the money is back problems."

His comment echoes the views of Claude Allègre, the French Education Minister, who has launched a national debate that is likely to revolutionise the relationship between classes and textbooks. "These books are too expensive and stuffed full of things that children don't need to know," he says.

Paul Landric, head of Collège Jean Moulin, in Perpignan in the South West, was among those who supported the minister. "Last year," he says, "we weighed our pupils with their bags and discovered that at the age of 11, they often carry between 10 and 14 kilos — 40 per cent of their own weight. Parents have been telling us for some time that their children are suffering health problems, such as back pain, as a result."

"The difficulty is that everyone in France considers the



Children carry 40 per cent of their own weight home each day

written word more important than the spoken word of the teacher. We have an almost religious attitude to the book."

This did not stop M Landric ordering the dissection of textbooks for a class of 13-year-olds last term. The works were cut up and the pupils handed a few pages at a time, drastically reducing the average weight of their satchels.

The minister has also raised the problem of whether the books are for the use of teachers to help them to structure

their courses, or for pupils. In practice, publishers design products that will appeal to teachers: full of graphs, diagrams and pictures.

As Denis Paget, the deputy general secretary of the National Union of Secondary School Teachers, says: "The books have become so exuberant that it is often impossible for children to find their way through them."

One book for 17-year-olds explains Balzac's novel *Le Père Goriot* in terms of "narrative

ised speech" and "activated agendas" — which is no more comprehensible in French than it is in English. This is accompanied by a "simple diagram" that rates the characters in terms of their "destination", "object" and "attitude", linking them with a shower of arrows. The work concludes: "The system of enunciation is conserved when the subjects' wording demands it."

M Paget says: "What happens is that pupils get a 400-page book but only use only about 50 pages during the year." This is bad for the national budget because the State pays for all textbooks until children leave colleges at the age of 16 to enter the lycée, where their parents have to find the £150 annual cost of books. Because the average price of a textbook is £17, the result is that they don't get changed for years on end. Sometimes, they can be 15 years old and inappropriate to new programmes."

In the short term, M Allègre hopes that the ticking-off he gave publishers will produce smaller, cheaper and more comprehensible books.

In the long term, IT advocates say, computers will provide teachers with all the materials they need, leaving textbooks to offer simple guidance and exercises for pupils.

## BULBS AND BRIGHT IDEAS.

This Sunday, 50 ways to effortlessly transform your garden. See the two part Gardening special starting in this week's Style.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS











## MOTOR RACING

# Williams out to regain pole position

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE signs pointed to the Williams museum, but there were no lights on in the room dedicated to the most successful constructor of grand prix cars in history. If Williams is supposed to be a team in crisis — 1998 was its first season without a victory in ten years — then Sir Frank Williams refuses to acknowledge it.

Of course he was stung by the ignominy of seeing his cars run in the middle of the pack while McLaren and Ferrari were duelling for the world championship, but one bad season in 20 does not mean that his team is in danger of collapse. "Last year brought us a season that was bad for the ego," he admitted, "because so many people had put so much mental and physical energy into the car and the team. But you have to take the rough with the smooth. The upside is that a year like that makes you examine what you are doing."

This from a man who had been threatening to turn Formula One into a Williams benefit. Seven seasons had brought five constructors' championships, bringing his total to nine — more than any other team — plus drivers' titles for Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve.

By the standards of most other teams, last season was not that bad, for Williams finished in third place, but what really stung Williams and Patrick Head, his long-time partner, was the realisation that their cars were outclassed.

The reaction to defeat has been vigorous and no effort has been spared at the factory, which is on the outskirts of the tiny village of Grove, Oxfordshire. This season's

car is all new, as are the drivers, Alessandro Zanardi and Ralf Schumacher having replaced Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

The public's view of Williams is the expressionless face glued to a television monitor. It is impossible to tell, by looking at him, how things are going on the track — but make no mistake, the passion is there under the surface.

The 24-hour flight to Melbourne, where the season begins on Sunday, is a wearing experience and must be torture for someone confined to a wheelchair and needing constant attention. It would be surprising if, during it, Williams' thoughts did not stray back to those early days when financial circumstances were so desperate that he had to conduct business from a telephone box because his office phone had been cut off; when mechanics were instructed to "acquire" used tyres from Ferrari. This is the team owner who persisted with Nigel Mansell when the Briton was widely thought to be overrated and who was determined to harness the maverick brilliance of Ayrton Senna.

Williams also has a gambling streak, which is why he is willing to take a chance on Zanardi and Schumacher. Zanardi, twice CART (IndyCar) champion is largely an unknown quantity in Formula One; Schumacher, Michael's erratic brother, spent much of last season ploughing his Jordan into the gravel traps.

Williams is banking on their contrasting qualities to help inspire a revival in a season that he refuses to accept as an interim one until the arrival of new BMW engines for



**THE WILLIAMS RECORD IN FORMULA ONE**  
First grand prix: Argentina, 1978. First victory: Britain, 1979. GP's contested: 332. Constructors' championships: 5. Drivers' championships: 7. Pole positions: 103. Victories: 103.



Zanardi, left, and Ralf Schumacher, the drivers Williams has chosen to carry the standard this season

2000. This season's Renault-based Supertec engine is improved, though almost certainly will still not be a match for the Mercedes of McLaren, or Ferrari, which means that the drivers will have to rely on the chassis and aerodynamics redressing the balance, particularly on the twistier, low-speed circuits, such as Hungary.

"Alex is a charming individual," Williams said, "while Ralf is very intense. He is also a very aggressive driver. Alex, at times, has not been so quick in testing, but over a race distance, there is not much between them. People had told me

throughout 1997 to watch Alex in CART and he impressed me a lot because he seems a real fighter. We are taking a bit of a chance with him, but not much. With Ralf, you see a driver who had his problems but can only get better."

The big question is whether the team as a whole can get better and so relegate last season to a mere blip in the history of a remarkable organisation. Williams is anticipating closer racing than for some years, with Jordan, Benetton and, possibly, the brash British American Racing team, making an impact.

After more than 330 grands prix, he is eager to start racing again. "I am waiting with some impatience," he said. "We have worked hard on what we think could be a special car, but we will have no idea how good it is until that first qualifying session. Then the contest really will have started."

**LINKS**  
WEBSITE: [www.formula1.com/](http://www.formula1.com/)  
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## ATHLETICS

# British meeting continues to drop in status

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

GREAT Britain's most prestigious athletics meeting has been downgraded to third-division status by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). The British Grand Prix, a member of the elite division until the formation of the Golden League last year, has been relegated for the second successive season and has slipped outside the world's top 15 meetings for the first time.

After winning the men's European Cup and topping the European championships medals table last year, Britain entered 1999 as the No 2 track and field nation in the world, looking up only to the United States. Yet in the league table of meetings, Britain has dropped behind Qatar, famous for its pearls but not its athletes.

However, for those who run the sport in Britain, there were mitigating circumstances last year. The collapse of the British Athletic Federation in October 1997 left them with an interim governing body and without the finances to underpin a top quality meeting.

The British Grand Prix, formerly held at Crystal Palace but more recently at Sheffield, was omitted from the wealthy Golden League when it began in 1998. Under the new structure, the first division effectively became the second division. Now Sheffield has been relegated from grand prix I to II and Britain's other IAAF summer international, at Gateshead, a grand prix II meeting, booted out of the league altogether.

"We are obviously very disappointed, but we are determined to get straight back to grand prix I and grand prix II status," David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics, the new governing body, said yesterday.

It is understood that Dr Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, offered the BBC a chance to preserve Britain's grand prix I status in return for a \$1 million purchase of television rights to the Golden

League, but this was refused. Towards the end of last year, the IAAF indicated Sheffield's fate, but suggested that there might be room for manoeuvre. Yesterday, though, Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF secretary, said on the eve of the world indoor championships here that a letter was on its way to Moorcroft confirming the downgrading.

Sheffield had failed, Gyulai said, to meet the standards required to retain its grand prix I status. The lower status will make it more difficult to attract athletes as the number of points available towards qualifying for the grand prix final drops with each division.

More might have to be spent in appearance fees and prize-money. Nevertheless, Britain is better equipped to deal with the summer ahead and Moorcroft was pleased with the British indoor grand prix in Birmingham last month, promoted by Fast Track.

"The BUPA grand prix proved what we can do," Moorcroft said. "We felt that last year's results were an exception and we gave the IAAF every assurance that we have the finances and infrastructure to merit grand prix status, but this was not enough."

It was not all bad news for Britain yesterday. Nebiolo said that a decision on where to stage the 2003 world championships would be delayed at least until November. The British bid for London is stuck in the blocks, waiting for the completion of the sale of Wembley Stadium.

Max Jones, Britain's performance director, expressed the hope that the athletes would maintain the momentum from 1998. In six previous world indoor championships, Great Britain has won only three gold medals. Jones is hoping for four here — from Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, Collin Jackson, in the 60 metres hurdles, Jamie Baulch, in the 400 metres, and the men's 4 x 400 metres team.

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## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Wigan prepare for challenge from their peers

By Christopher Irvine

FOR A fourth summer of the JJB Super League to produce a different winner would involve Wigan Warriors, the 1998 champions, being cast as one-hit wonders — a dangerous assumption to make of any side coached by Johnnie Wainwright. Nevertheless, they face a more formidable challenge from Leeds Rhinos, who were runners-up last year, with a resurgent Bradford Bulls joining the fray.

Cynics argued that St Helens and Bradford won the first two Super League titles because Wigan let their standards slip, an impression that was corrected by Wigan last season. However, one of several optimistic signs for the sport is that the rest are catching Wigan up: in the case of Leeds, under Graham Murray, they may have overtaken them.

The successful introduction of the play-offs last year, combined with as many as a dozen clubs who can reasonably lay claim to the position among the top five make this the most unpredictable season for years. Rather than being dominated by one superpower, the league has three, in Leeds, Wigan and Bradford, with significant strides being taken by Warrington Wolves and Castleford Tigers.

With two former Great Britain coaches back from Australia in Ellery Hanley, at St Helens, and Malcolm Reilly, at Huddersfield Giants, another club that has caught the ambitious mood despite finishing bottom last year, there is no shortage of the determination necessary to withstand an extended 30-match programme.

One of the few disappointments of the season, which starts when Wigan play Hull Sharks at home tonight, is that the advancements made by playing once a week are being compromised by the addition of seven further fixtures, with the introduction of Gateshead Thunder and Wakefield Trinity to a 14-team competition and a series of "box-office" midweek matches. Leeds and



Wigan, for instance, meet three times before the play-offs. By the time that the Great Britain squad heads off to Australia and the autumn series with that country and New Zealand — presuming that all wrinkles are ironed out by the Rugby League International Federation next week — Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, will be in a familiar position of trying to coax the best out of some tired players.

Super League Europe has to make the game pay and attract new sponsors to replace JJB after this season. It has launched a raucous advertising campaign directed at the female market, which is in danger of confusing rugby

## The final countdown

The top five clubs play elimination and qualifying play-offs. The top team in the Super League is awarded by having to win only one play-off to reach the Grand Final, at Old Trafford on October 9. For the fifth-placed club to become champions, they would have to beat all the teams above them.

**ROUND ONE (Sept. 17-19):** Elimination play-off: fourth v fifth. Qualifying play-off: second v third.

**ROUND TWO (Sept. 24-26):** Elimination semi-final: qualifying play-off loser v elimination semi-final winner. Qualifying semi-final: first v qualifying play-off winner.

**ROUND THREE (Oct. 3):** Elimination final: qualifying semi-final loser v elimination semi-final winner.

**GRAND FINAL:** Between round-three winners.

**PRIZE-MONEY:** Winners: £275,000. Runners-up: £175,000. Third: £150,000. Fourth: £100,000. Fifth: £75,000.

league with a "ladies night" event. Because it was good for business in Australia does not necessarily mean it will have the same impact here.

Nonetheless, season-ticket sales are up across the board. It may not sound much, but in these turbulent times for many professional sports, rugby league has the benefit of stability, both in financial terms, with a revised television contract up to 2003, and the knowledge that "summer" is established as the accepted season for the leading competition.

With talk of breakaways and feuds now over, the new feel is down principally to the entry of Gateshead and the professional manner in which it has been set up. A demanding season will put strains on squads, but also bring to the fore names such as Kevin Sinfield and Karl Pratt, at Leeds, and Leon Pryce and Paul Deacon, at Bradford, as British stars of the future.

By the play-offs, Wigan will have said farewell to Central Park after 97 years and moved to the 25,000-seat stadium taking shape at Robin Park — a symbol of change in a game that is heading, albeit slowly, in the right direction.

Arguably the most famous number in rugby league — the 102,569 spectators at Odsal who watched the 1954 Challenge Cup final replay between Warrington and Halifax — will disappear from the record books tomorrow.

All 110,000 tickets have been sold for the opening Australian National Rugby League double-header, between Manly and Newcastle and St George-Illawarra and Parramatta, which marks the opening of Stadium Australia, the venue for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Smyth is a case in point. Yesterday was the 46th year and twentieth day of his life, which makes him the second-oldest man in the field at the Portuguese Open, but there was nothing remotely venerable about his golf, a 66 giving him a two-stroke lead on a course on which preferred lies are being used because of a lack of consistent growth on the fairways.



Retief Goosen plays his opening shot of the first round in Penina yesterday on his way to a 68 and a share of second place, two shots behind Smyth

## Smyth's old-time sorcery spells trouble for rivals

FROM MEL WEBB IN PENINA, PORTUGAL

AS A rule, sport is demonstrably the province of the young and vigorous, but on the European tour no truck is countenanced with such ageist notions. In golf, if you're good enough, you're young enough and yesterday callow youth was left hyperventilating as one of the game's senior citizens showed them as clean a pair of heels as they will ever see.

Like Old Father Thames, Des Smyth just keeps rolling along. He is one of only eight still regularly playing European Tour events whose membership began in the days of pre-qualifying, the Russian roulette system under which competitors had to play their way into tournaments on the Mondays preceding them.

They were old-time hustlers, this brave little band, men who put their talents on the line in a hand-to-mouth existence that risked all and guaranteed nothing. Cruel though it undoubtedly was, those who survived were imbued with a toughness and a resilience that continue to serve them well, even as their golfing dotage draws nigh.

Smyth is a case in point. Yesterday was the 46th year and twentieth day of his life, which makes him the second-oldest man in the field at the Portuguese Open, but there was nothing remotely venerable about his golf, a 66 giving him a two-stroke lead on a course on which preferred lies are being used because of a lack of consistent growth on the fairways.

Throughout his career, Smyth, who

played his 500th European Tour event at the Dubai Desert Classic three weeks ago, has been possessed of a sorcerer's touch on and around the greens. Give him a wedge or a putter and ask him to demonstrate what he can do with it, then marvel as everything short of a Rachmaninov piano concerto will issue forth.

It was with the short-distance clubs that he built his six-under-par score. He chipped in twice for two of his seven birdies and took only 24 putts. Come to think of it, perhaps that snatch of music that wafted across the course in mid-morning might have been the big Rachmaninov number after all.

The Irishman was, naturally, quietly pleased with himself, but he has been around too long to get carried away. "An awful lot can happen between now and Sunday," he said. "This was just one good round, that's all."

Having played indifferently in his first two appearances of the season, he said that he had scared himself into playing well in the face of ever-improving standards being produced by the next generation. "The 66 was due less to confidence, more to fear," he said. "These days I feel like a hare in a coursing race."

He will probably be caught today, hounds being the dogged sorts they are. But for now, it did not matter, for now, it was Hare 66, Hounds 68 or worse.

Scores, page 48

## US-based Swede in Ryder Cup picture

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

EVEN six months before the event, the Ryder Cup is dominating golf. Ben Crenshaw is taking a high profile as he seeks to whip up enthusiasm and support for his United States team at Boston in September. Meanwhile, a little-known name has forced itself into the list of candidates for the Europe team. Mention the name Gabriel Hjertstedt to most followers of the game in Great Britain and they probably would not have a clue who he is. That could be about to change.

While all eyes were on the World Match Play Championship in La Costa, California last week, Hjertstedt was winning a tournament in Tucson, Arizona, for those players on the US PGA Tour not ranked in the world's top 65. It was his second victory in North America. In 1997, he won the BC Open.

Yesterday, he hoped well with the famed Blue Monster course in the opening round of the Doral-Ryder Open, still on a high after his victory on Sunday. "That gave me a lot more confidence," he said. "When I started today, I thought to myself: 'This is a new week. Go for it.'"

A 71, Thomas Bjorn a 72 and Nick Faldo a 73.

Hjertstedt, 27, is slight, quietly-spoken and, being dark-haired, looks more American than Swedish. Though born in Sweden, he lived in Australia for 13 years before moving first to the West Coast of the United States and then to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

He believes that he needs to win at least one more tournament over here to come into the reckoning for Mark James's Europe team, for which he is eligible as a member of the European Tour. "If I do so, I will certainly have a chance," he said. "I would love to play in it. I think it would be nerve-racking, but I would like to see some of the fellows I played junior golf with again."

Faldo salvaged what was a disappointing round by single-putting his last three greens and taking birdies on two of the holes. There was a testing wind to add to the difficulties of this 7,125-yard course where Faldo won in 1995 when he rejoined the US PGA Tour. Such victories seem a long time ago now. He was muttering to himself as he strode off in the direction of the putting green and practice ground having confessed: "I am still not hitting it full blast."

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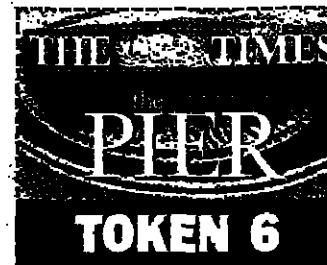


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CHANGING TIMES

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 46 - More on responder's second bid

The principles governing responder's second bid are similar to those on the first round. I will first look at the situation where opener has shown a minimum hand. If responder has:

- (a) a minimum hand (say 6-9 HCP), he should either pass or give simple preference to opener's first suit (i.e. put opener back to his first suit at the minimum level);
- (b) something extra (10-12 HCP with a fit or 11-12 without a fit) he should make an invitational bid;
- (c) 13 HCP or more, he should make sure game is reached.

Here are some examples. Suppose the bidding has started 1♣-1♠-2♣:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| (A) ♠ KQ43<br>♥ 43<br>♦ QJ1072<br>♣ 76  | (B) ♠ A98652<br>♥ 5<br>♦ K54<br>♣ J54   | (C) ♠ KJ105<br>♥ Q3<br>♦ AJ97<br>♣ 1097 |
| (D) ♠ A10542<br>♥ K43<br>♦ A4<br>♣ 1065 | (E) ♠ QJ76<br>♥ A2<br>♦ Q107<br>♣ A1042 | (F) ♠ A10653<br>♥ A64<br>♦ KJ54<br>♣ 3  |

Hand (A) is not that bad a hand but there is little prospect of game facing a minimum Two Heart rebid. Pass. On Hand (B) it may be tempting to bid Two Spades but how many hearts do you think partner has? Remember, he would open One No-Trump if he was balanced (no void, no singleton and no more than one doubleton), so his distribution cannot be 5-3-2-2. If he is 5-4-2-2 he would bid his four-card suit in preference to rebidding his hearts, ergo he has a six-card suit. There is no reason to be afraid of a Two Heart contract. It is better to let things drop as quickly as possible. Pass.

Hands (C) and (D) both have 11 HCP, worth a game invitation. You have already shown your spade suit, so with Hand (C) bid Two No-Trumps and with Hand (D) bid Three Hearts.

Hands (E) and (F) are similar but a little stronger. Now you want to ensure that game is reached so bid Three No-Trumps and Four Hearts respectively.

These hands have been relatively straightforward because the right denomination has been fairly clear. This has meant that you could either bid game or make a sensible limit bid, depending on your values. It is not always as easy as that. Next week I will look at some examples of how to investigate further when you are not sure what trumps should be.

□ You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 2p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Toneridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

### PISOLITHS

- a. Kidney stones
- b. Leaning columns
- c. Rock particles

### STERADIAN

- a. Denture cleanser
- b. Geometrical quantity
- c. Starlit satellite

### CISEAUX PAS

- a. A ballet step
- b. A false move
- c. The opening bid

### COUVADE

- a. Lingerie
- b. Espionage
- c. Natal ritual

Answers on page 50

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

### Psyched out

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, continued his winning ways in the ninth round of the elite tournament at Linas by dispatching Vassily Ivanchuk for the second time. Kasparov now leads with 7/9, a colossal score in a tournament of this strength, by a 1½ point margin over his closest rival, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster.

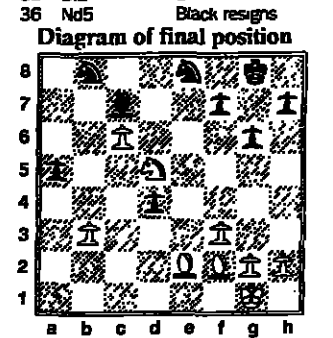
However, the most striking thing about Kasparov's win against Ivanchuk is that the Ukrainian grandmaster, awed by Kasparov's dominating presence at the board, may have resigned prematurely.

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk

Linas 1999

### Queen's Gambit Accepted

- |    |      |       |
|----|------|-------|
| 1  | d4   | dxc4  |
| 2  | c4   | e6    |
| 3  | e3   | c5    |
| 4  | Bxc4 | a6    |
| 5  | 0-0  | Nf6   |
| 6  | Bb3  | Nc6   |
| 7  | Nc3  | cxd4  |
| 8  | exd4 | Bc7   |
| 9  | Re1  | 0-0   |
| 10 | a3   | Na5   |
| 11 | Bd2  | b5    |
| 12 | Bc1  | b4    |
| 13 | d5   | Nc4   |
| 14 | Qd3  | Re8   |
| 15 | e4   | exd5  |
| 16 | axb5 | a5    |
| 17 | b3   | Nd6   |
| 18 | Nd4  | Bb7   |
| 19 | g3   | Rb8   |
| 20 | Na4  | Bf8   |
| 21 | Bg5  | g5    |
| 22 | Qd2  | Rac1+ |
| 23 | Re1  | Nf6   |
| 24 | Re2  | Bb4   |
| 25 | Qc3  | Rc7   |
| 26 | Bc3  | Re7   |
| 27 | Qc1  | Ra2   |
| 28 | Ba2  | Qe7   |



### Saving clause

Here Ivanchuk resigned, assuming that after 36... Nxc6 (if Black cannot play this, then his position really is hopeless) 37 Bb5 White would win a piece. However, after 36... Nxc6 37 Bb5 Nb4! 38 Nxb4 Nd6 White can do no better than 39 Bxd3 axb4 40 Bxd4 when White is certainly better, but Black can continue to resist.

### Score recap

Full scores out of nine are as follows: Kasparov 7; Kramnik 5½; Anand 5; Adams 4½; Topalov and Leko 4; Svidler and Ivanchuk 3.

### Keene online

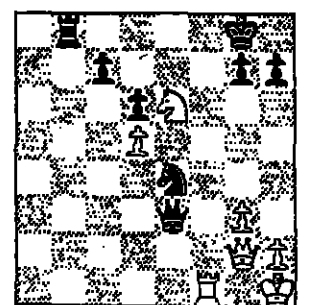
You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Weiss - Deshmukh, Elista 1998. With his extra pawn and active pieces, Black seems to be doing well but White's next move forced a revision of this assessment. How did he continue?



Solution on page 50







## RUGBY UNION

## Ireland try to correct balance of expectation

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

WARREN GATLAND, the Irish coach, sounded a timely note of caution yesterday amid the rising anticipation of tomorrow's Five Nations Championship match against England at Lansdowne Road.

Such is the interest in the match that black-market tickets are said to be changing hands for £600, but Gatland knows that his side is far from the finished article.

"If Ireland, Scotland or Wales had achieved England's recent results, they would be over the moon," Gatland said. "England have set high standards, which may make them vulnerable when they expect to do well, but makes them that much more dangerous when they come under pressure. It brings out the best in them, brings them closer together as a team."

"We are still learning to take our opportunities, to be consistent for 80 minutes. Against Wales, we panicked a bit, tried to defend a lead and stopped playing rugby. But we are learning how to finish a game and I don't think any Ireland player would not fancy his chances against his opposite number on Saturday."

At least Gatland knows that his side will go the distance, having finished so strongly against South Africa and Wales. "We now have a group of people who believe in themselves, who believe they can compete with any side," Donal Lenihan, the manager, said. "It may be a compliment to us that England arrived on Tuesday to prepare, on the other hand, it also shows their professionalism."

England, so deeply disappointed with their narrow victory over Scotland, have begun already the process of rehabilitation. Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, whose play and tactical approach have come under fire over the past ten

days, accepts the criticism. "If the team performs badly, the responsibility falls on me, but you can be sure that, behind closed doors, everyone accepts a degree of responsibility," he said.

"We will be meeting an Ireland side on top of their game, but, on the positive side, we have a lot of experienced players who know the Five Nations and who know what it takes to win in Dublin."

"The expectation on us is huge after the win over South Africa in December. The public want success, but they also want it with style. We are looking for consistency of performance, which should lead to the results that everyone wants. I have belief in my ability as a player and captain and that has been reinforced by the coach and by the team."

Dallaglio shrugs off any suggestion that the back row chosen for tomorrow is not the best available. He has played No 8 for Wales, for England and for the British Isles and feels thoroughly at home in a position that carries with it an enhanced level of decision-making. However, it might assist England's performance if he and Richard Hill refrain from swooping positions during the game against an Ireland pack that will severely examine England's defence.

Neil Back, an integral player in that area, acknowledged that the absence of Will Greenwood, the powerful centre, has been a blow to England. Not only can Greenwood create space for other backs, he offers the back row an obvious target. It would be wrong to expect the same from Jonathan Wilkinson, his replacement, though young Wilkinson is keen to take on a greater attacking role than against Scotland, which indicates both competence and, more significantly, confidence.



Dallaglio, the England captain, a towering presence yesterday below the turrets of the team's training headquarters

## Henry works for better days

Wales arrived in Paris yesterday led by Graham Henry, their coach from New Zealand, for whom the match tomorrow against France will be a first taste of international rugby in the French capital.

Henry has previously admitted to being taken aback by the passion and intensity generated in the Five Nations Championship, on Wednesday, he reiterated his feelings. In response to a question about whether he felt the championship should be played on a home and away basis, as in the Tri-Nations tournament between New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, he said: "What we have now is the best international tournament in the world. Let's keep it that way."

Henry considers the skills level in the southern hemisphere to be superior, as is the tier of competition immediately below internationals, but he added: "That is taking nothing away from the intensity and expectation of the Five

## Mark Souster finds that the Wales coach is a fan of the Five Nations

Nations. They are huge games. In New Zealand, you don't have 75,000-capacity stadiums."

It is rather cruel, then, given Henry's fondness for a tournament that has often been dismissed in disparaging terms by other New Zealanders, that it has kicked him and Wales in the teeth so far — with every prospect of further poundings at the hands of France this weekend, and then England.

How the expectation of the autumn has evaporated so swiftly has been and will continue to be the subject of endless analysis. Henry has his own theories, which he insists that he does not want them to be taken as excuses for a lack of success.

"There are obviously things behind the scenes that, if they were put right, would be of immense help," he said. "There's a vital need for people in Welsh rugby to walk down the same road and have the same objectives. At the moment, there is conflict, which isn't helping. The Cardiff-Swansea thing is playing on the players' minds. There is instability for their future. There's a need for things to be resolved, hopefully in the short term."

There's a vital need for things to be resolved

Is he optimistic? "I'm always hopeful. It's a matter of everyone getting together and working out their differences. People will have to make compromises. We aren't a strong enough rugby nation to have these conflicts going on and expect to improve.

They need to be fixed up. As players and coaches, we need to insulate ourselves from those things as best we can."

There had been suggestions that Henry had issued an ultimatum to the Welsh Rugby Union, to whom he is contracted until after the 2003 World Cup. "I have been trying, in a reasonably subtle way, to work with the decision-makers. I am making my ideas very clear," he said.

The instability is a real problem. The lack of competitive football below international level is a real problem. I have been involved in this sort of thing before, but when you get challenges like this, it brings the best out of people."

France were forced to make one change yesterday to the team to meet Wales. Olivier Magne, the Brive open-side flanker, who has not missed a game through injury since his international debut in 1997, has had to withdraw because of a foot complaint. He is replaced by Marc Raynaud, of Narbonne, starting his first game for France.

## SNOOKER

## Threat on life leaves Wattana reeling

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

JAMES WATTANA, a national sporting hero here, bowed out of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel last night after receiving an anonymous death threat only two hours before he met Ken Doherty in the last 16 of the world-ranking tournament.

Wattana, who captured the title in 1994 and 1995, was told, via his mobile telephone, to lose the match or "be prepared to die". It is believed the call, traced to a nearby public kiosk, was made by a member of an illegal betting syndicate. Having held Doherty to 2-2, Wattana was beaten 5-2, but at no stage did he provide any indication that he was not giving of his best. Doherty, who advances to meet John Parrott, was unaware of the problem.

Wattana's mother, Floy, advised her son to withdraw and was seen in tears. Seven years ago, on the day that Wattana produced a 147 maximum break against Tony Drago at the British Open, he was informed that his father had been shot dead by an assassin in Bangkok.

Even in such disturbing circumstances, Wattana, in poor form of late, managed to retain his sense of humour. "It was a good thing the guy asked me to lose. I don't know what I'd have done if he had said I'd got to win. That would have been difficult," he said.

Steve Davis, who produced arguably his worst performance as a professional at the recent Scottish Open, demonstrated a radical improvement to accompany Doherty into the quarter-finals.

Davis, 41, swiftly and fluently defeated Peter Ebdon 5-1 and now meets Darren Morgan. In a high-quality display, the six-time world champion compiled breaks of 98, 91 and a 136 total clearance, the highest of the tournament so far.

"I hit rock bottom a while ago and sometimes when you think there's no way you can go any lower, it gives you a better perspective," Davis, startlingly ineffective during a 5-1 defeat by Darren Clarke in the first round of the Scottish Open, said.

## SWIMMING

## Champion denied in dispute over rules

FROM CRAIG LORD IN IMPERIA, ITALY

THE World Cup came to an acrimonious end here last night when officials were lambasted for refusing to declare a men's medley champion and pay \$17,500 (£10,600) in prize-money on the grounds that neither Christian Keller, the German in the lead, nor any of those below him had competed at events on three continents.

Keller was denied the \$10,000 (£6,000) first prize after falling foul, along with 50 or so others, of a year-old rule that requires swimmers to race at least once in two zones away from their home continent during the 12-event series. The men's medley money will be held over for the next World Cup.

David Sparkes, the chief executive of British swimming and a member of the World Cup committee, said that the decision had been made because "it would be unfair to all the federations and swimmers who have spent money travelling to waive the rule at this late stage". Keller said: "I'm really upset. In the medley, not one swimmer has been to three continents, so I am the fair winner."

The three-continent rule and an increase to an exhaustive 12 rounds of the cup meant also that four other runner-up cash prizes were not awarded, in men's sprint freestyle and butterfly and women's distance freestyle and breaststroke, saving Fina, the international body, and its federations even more money from the \$230,000 (£140,000) available for prizes. As a solution, the rule was relaxed yesterday to two continents for the competition next year.

Although there were many fine performances last night — the most impressive of which was that of Agnes Kovacs, of Hungary, whose 2min 23.79sec over the 200 metres breaststroke was the fastest in the world this year — the last session of the cup did not change the overall outcome of the World Cup. Great Britain's only success was second place for Susan Rolph in the sprint freestyle series.

## RFU lets Yates off lightly

BY DAVID HANDS

KEVIN YATES, the Bath prop, who was suspended for six months last year for biting Simon Fenn's ear during a cup match with London Scottish, received a further suspension yesterday, though far less than he might have feared. Yates was banned by a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel until April 1 for "reckless" use of the boot during the Allied Dunbar Premiership game against Wasps last month.

Yates, capped by England in Argentina in 1997, was cited by Wasps after a facial injury to Paul Volley, their flanker, which required seven stitches. A three-month suspension was a possibility, but, after scrutinising the video evidence during a hearing lasting less than two hours, the RFU panel, chaired by Jonathan Dance, decided that Yates's action in the game on February 7 had been reckless, but not wilful, and that he should serve no more than a month.

Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said Yates's punishment was appropriate. "We wanted it to be confirmed that stamping on heads has no part in our game," he said.

Yet it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the Calcutta Cup match during the intervening period, when Martin Johnson was given a yellow card for stamping on the neck of John Leslie, may have influenced the hearing. Johnson, the England lock, who will play against Ireland tomorrow, claimed the stamp on the Scotland centre was accidental and no action was taken.

## When France invented the beautiful game

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

Twenty-four years ago, Wales travelled to Paris to play their second match at the Parc des Princes, the stadium that had taken over from Stade Colombes, with its overhanging stands, was a grimmer and more solemn place than the venerable stadium it had replaced.

Wales had six players enjoying their first taste of international rugby. It was a bold selectorial decision to initiate such raw talent into what had become, and still remains, the most forbidding of all cities in the Five Nations Championship. Remarkably, Wales won, for the second time in four years. Such success in Paris has eluded them ever since.

It has not always been like this. Between 1959 and 1969, Wales did not win a game in France, but they had previously dominated a series of matches between the countries. From 1908 until 1927, Wales won all the fixtures, with France achieving their first success the following year. Their first win in Wales — in Swansea — was not achieved until 20 years later. And from 1949 to 1959 they shared the spoils at Stade Colombes.

This retrospective is to draw attention to the fact that French rugby, despite all the acknowledged flair and traditional gifts, had not been noticeably successful. They were very late starters in the manner of winning. During recent decades, however, French eminence has remained steadfast. They have been the mainstay of rugby's reputation in the northern hemisphere for 40 years.

This is noteworthy since it is often held that consistency is not their most obvious characteristic. The change came with Lucien Mias, the famous captain of the late 1950s. The trouble with France teams, he observed, was that they played "like a collection of captains", each player wanting to express his individuality with no sense of unity of purpose.

Mias could be said to be the man most responsible for transforming their game. He persuaded his countrymen — while acknowledging the romantic flavour of French rugby — to recognise also the power of teamwork and the need for physical strength and a firm spirit. This philosophy would be inherited by Jacques Fouroux as captain in the Seventies and coach in the Eighties, but, sadly, without the same romantic vision.

Mias was the leader of the France team in 1968 that, for the first time, beat South Africa in Johannesburg in a two-match series. He was to lead them to the Five Nations Championship outright for the first time in their history the next year. This success provided the springboard for their recent eminence.

They were to achieve the grand slam for the first time in 1968 and, to prove their late flowering as a national team, they have repeated the feat on five occasions since. This season they are attempting a third consecutive grand slam.

For all the pragmatism and physical elements that Mias introduced, these in themselves would never be enough for France. They must retain the romance of the game if they are to attract the hearts of the people. Rugby must never be too straight-laced and formal. There has to be a sense of abandon, a freedom of expression.

It is this quality that causes apprehension among their opponents, particularly those in the Five Nations. No one, as they all admit, plays like the French. When they cut loose and the spirit moves them, there is no stopping their fluid motion, which is why "containment" is probably the word that is most often uttered by any team about to face them.

Wales must have felt like that last season, but it did them no good. That match was as vivid an expression as one would wish to see of the way that rugby is an *affaire de coeur* to the French.

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# Leaked revelations a blow to Channel 4 scoop

When you get your 15 minutes of fame make sure you've got a good agent. Having paid £400,000 for Monica Lewinsky's first UK television interview, Channel 4 was not going to be backward in hyping forward. Preview tapes were withheld until yesterday morning, prompting cries of "Hold the television paper" to echo around Wapping.

But given that yesterday's papers were full of accounts of her American interview with Barbara Walters, and that Channel 4 were sending out press releases containing the juicier quotes from Jon Snow's, this may seem a little disingenuous. It won't do the book sales any harm, though.

Following Walters didn't make Jon Snow's job any easier. The more dramatic or lurid "revelations", such as Lewinsky's claim to have contemplated jumping from the tenth-storey office where Bill Clinton was grilling her, were

already in the public domain from advance publicity on Moston's book. We all guessed that she no longer values Linda Tripp's friendship, and has mixed feelings about Clinton himself.

Nor did it help that Lewinsky is polishing her act as the "small, subtle, flirtatious" woman. But for Snow this had been edited down to "a very small gesture". Not where I come from, it isn't.

In fact Snow's approach, which worked well, was to do the thinking for her. All the telling phrases came from him. Lewinsky herself in that teeth-curling Californian emotive speak. She is "in touch with her sexuality", for instance, "and it needs to be honoured and cherished". Her family are to be "honoured" and "valued" and everyone she met seems to have "violated" her in some way or other.

Snow offered her a long string of telling propositions about her reactions and feelings, many of which she had not anticipated. She began with an extraordinary puppyish charm, almost gushing and giggling like a schoolgirl — 25 going on 15.

But Snow pushed her firmly but tactfully into the darker zones, and a picture began to emerge of an admittedly self-deluding and less than completely moral innocent, sucked into a nightmare of cynicism, deceit and ruthless manipulation. The bubbles subsided and a troubled, saddened air descended, tinged with the fear that her immunity from prosecution could still be lifted by a false move, with the gates of the penitentiary beckoning.

The fact that Kenneth Starr's team have gagged her from discussing the way they "handled"

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

her surely torpedoes their claim to be disinterested seekers after truth. You do not have to like or admire Clinton to see that Lewinsky was a human dum-dum bullet, fired in a failed coup d'état.

She seemed an articulate, guileless, warm-hearted woman, but this is a world of mirrors, most of them two-way, and hidden agendas, so who can really tell? If only the President had heeded Rudyard

Kipling's observation that "a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke". That's right, Bill, a smoke.

Football's Foreign Legion (Channel 5) was an example of a rare and precarious beast, a half-way decent Channel 5 documentary. Half-way only because, like Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers*, the programme was something of a "flood and baggy monster".

There was an inconclusive discussion about whether the flood of foreign cucks was killing our native chicks, or whether they were teaching by example. A further inconclusive debate looked at the globalisation of the sport, suggesting that a multinational mogul such as, to pick an example at random, Rupert Murdoch, might plant a Japanese player on Manchester United in order to open up Japanese markets to his media products.

But most of the footage consisted

of profiles of genial foreign footballers such as Eyal Berkovic of Israel and West Ham, who has found happiness at Solly's kosher restaurant, Golders Green, even though his team-mates are often unintelligible as "zay spik Cockinik".

In fact the greatest effect of the foreign invasion may be on the fans. They have been introduced to smoother, classier, cleverer ways of playing "the beautiful game" as it is known to initiates. Or "the game of running about a lot in the mud" as it is known to the rest of us.

Not that that makes much difference to the Glasgow fans. They are determined that the new foreign players, including the six Roman Catholics playing for traditionally Protestant Rangers, are fully aware of the treasured heritage of Rangers-Celtic sectarian hatred, we were told.

But foreign players, unlike

Liverpool's Robbie Fowler, are not ashamed to be thoughtful. Chelsea's French international Frank Leboeuf, for instance, is no mad cow, whatever his name may imply. "We've got only one life and I want to be involving many cultures and it was very important to come abroad and see how English people live," he ruminated appreciatively. I wonder if Gazza would say that in Italian.

Would the ranting xenophobic fan who taunted Eric Cantona have realised what a prat he was if the mono-brow philosopher had not dropped-kicked him in the solar plexus? Sadly the programme overlooked this point, but "ze pilchard no dances in ze ship's spume, must bewair ze unexpected shag", as Eric might say. Or "He's French; he's flash, and he's seeing [I think that was the word] Leslie Ash, Canonaaaa!" as Manchester United fans once chanted, clearly inspired by his Gallic muse.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (90340)
  - 7.00 Breakfast News (7) (43969)
  - 6.00 Kilroy (7) (222222)
  - 9.45 The Vanessa Show (7) (7380389)
  - 10.55 News: Weather (7) (3394953)
  - 11.00 Change That (3374230)
  - 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (3361389)
  - 11.55 News: Weather (7) (7203327)
  - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (14308)
  - 12.30 Wipeout (4805785)
  - 12.55 The Weather Show (7) (53949785)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (7) (40056)
  - 1.30 Regional News: Weather (5968136)
  - 1.40 Neighbours (7) (35818018)
  - 2.05 Ironside Practical Jokers with a sick sense of humour keep the police in suspense (7) (5122553)
  - 2.25 Through the Keyhole (7) (7110358)
  - 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6783300)
  - 3.45 Spicks (3392350) 3.50 Smart on the Road (5044872) 4.05 Rugsby (5042414) 4.30 L & K Friday (3342292) 4.55 Newsround Extra (5062211) 5.10 Blue Peter (5071476)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (143211)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (7) (259)
  - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (211)
  - 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Kate Winslet and Grey O'Brien grace the hectic cooking show (7) (5018)
  - 7.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Blur, The Verve, The Chemical Brothers, Whitney Houston, Spice Girls and Stereophonics (7) (495)
  - 8.00 Grand Force Alan Titchmarsh and the team pitch in to create the ultimate football fan's garden, complete with corner grandstand (4/8) (7) (4766)
  - 8.30 The Builders The council gives the go-ahead to Tony Keating's latest project (7) (501)
  - 9.00 The 6 O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (7) (2383)
  - 9.30 Parkinson With the comedian Lenny Henry and Rolf Harris (7) (836579)

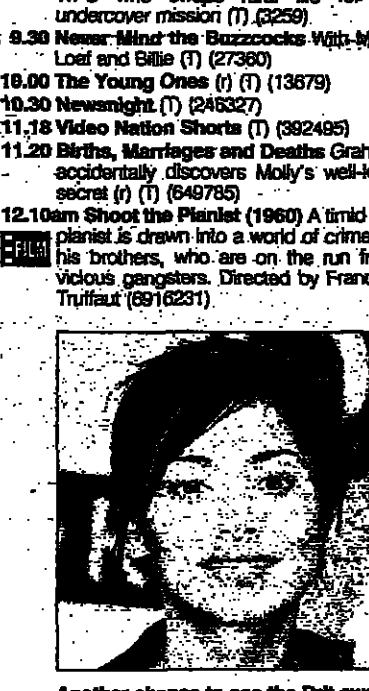


War-time action with Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton (10.25pm)

- 10.25 Where Eagles Dare (1969) Commandos set out to rescue an American general captured by the Nazis. Second World War espionage thriller, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (50331018)
- 12.55am A Child for Satan (TVM 1991) Chiller, starring Maria Conchita Alonso as a pregnant woman who moves to New Mexico with her husband, only to be unsettled by a warning that evil forces are stirring. Directed by Robert Lieberman, John Schwartzman (7) (4254438)

- 10.25 Just Up Your Street (332563) 11.00 Facing The King: Dai Smith in Conversation with Barry John (504350) 11.40 Film: Where Eagles Dare (7) (50154230) 2.10am-2.15 News Headlines and Weather (7) (5924148)

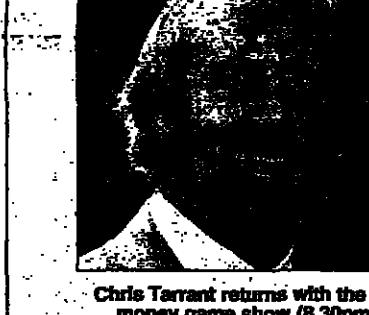
- BBC2**
- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7740309) 7.05 Teletubbies (6730769) 7.30 Snorks (595521) 7.50 Short Cartoons (531822) 8.15 Rovers (5144563) 8.30 Top Mania (531822) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (1349230) 8.50 Pingu (1345414) 9.00 Storytime (7957230) 9.10 See You, See Me (4595705) 9.30 Numberline (608211)
  - 9.45 Come Outside (608211) 10.00 Teletubbies (33938) 10.30 MegaMorphs (1837560) 10.50 Look & Read (157414) 11.10 Landmarks (3540124) 11.30 English Life (4124) 12.00pm Scene (82150) 12.30 Working Lunch (47124) 1.00 Johnson & Friends (6826380)
  - 1.10 The House Detectives (7) (4100055)
  - 1.40 Hart-Davis on History (5522211)
  - 2.10 Aweash with Colours (5762260)
  - 2.40 News: Weather (7) (3394953)
  - 2.45 **WORLD** World Indoor Athletics Championships Introduced by Helen Robinson (4813124)
  - 3.25 News: Weather (7) (4063476)
  - 3.30 The Village (7) (7110308)
  - 3.55 Kaye (9726327)
  - 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (6407672)
  - 4.55 Esther (7) (5482853)
  - 5.30 Today's Day (7) (360)
  - 6.00 The Simpsons (7) (711360)
  - 6.20 The Simpsons (7) (712476)
  - 6.45 Robot Wars: The Grand Final (153327)
  - 7.15 Electric Circus (7) (232394)
  - 7.30 Country House: Lord and Lady Tavistock appear to have made themselves unpopular (7) (227)
  - 8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Dr Phil Hammond meets researchers looking to boost the British male's dwindling sperm production (7) (2308)
  - 8.30 Gardeners' World: Stephen Lacey meets an octopussy gardener in Santa Barbara (3/30) (7) (4143)
  - 9.00 **MURDER** Most Horrid Dawn WPC who swears rural life for an undercover mission (7) (2359)
  - 9.30 News: The British Wildlife: West Lothian and Billa (7) (27380)
  - 10.00 The Young Ones (7) (13679)
  - 10.30 Newsnight (7) (245327)
  - 11.15 Video Nation Shorts (7) (392495)
  - 11.20 Births, Marriages and Deaths Graham, accidentally discovers Molly's well-kept secret (7) (649785)
  - 12.10am Shoot the Pianist (1960) A timid pianist is drawn into a world of crime by his brothers, who are on the run from vicious gangsters. Directed by Francois Truffaut (5016231)



Another chance to see the Brit award winner Natalie Imbruglia live (1.30am)

- 1.30 Later with Jools Holland With Page and Plant; Gomez; Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Natalie Imbruglia (7) (235051)
- 2.35 Weather (599172) 2.40 Close
- 3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GOSPEL: Biblewise Revision: French 1 (45389) 5.00 Close

- HTV**
- 5.30am HTV Morning News (36230)
  - 6.00 GMTV (506785)
  - 9.25 Trisha (7) (8218414)
  - 10.30 This Morning (7) (4483038)
  - 12.15pm HTV News (7) (4311550)
  - 12.30 HTV Lunchtime News (7) (34650)
  - 12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (53934853)
  - 1.00 WALEX: What You Were Here? (7) (3394953) 1.15 The Alps and the Himalayas (7) (3124)
  - 1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Nick loses control (3124)
  - 1.30 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (7) (33821)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615476)
  - 2.45 Wheel of Fortune (7) (538969)
  - 3.15 HTV News Headlines (7) (4061018)
  - 3.20 HTV News (7) (4091259)
  - 3.25 CTV: Mopetop's Shop (4074582) 3.35 Timocula (503495) 3.45 Animal Stories (531827) 3.55 Giggle! Giggle! (4780872) 4.15 Pump It Up (138018) 4.45 Comin' Atcha (3385143)
  - 5.10 A Country Practice Darcy saves Billy's bacon. Last in series (7166963)
  - 5.40 HTV Early Evening News (7) (724230)
  - 6.00 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (7) (143489)
  - 6.25 WALEX: Wales Tonight (7) (830550)
  - 6.35 WEST: HTV Weather (354495)
  - 6.50 WEST: The West Tonight (7) (679)
  - 6.55 WALEX: A Taste of Things to Come New programmes on HTV (24747)
  - 7.00 Bob's Burgers: The Year Cards Right Game show (7/18) (7) (3414)
  - 7.30 Coronation Street The game's over for Ian (7) (663)
  - 8.00 Days Like These The gang goes to a disco where they nearly change partners, while Bob thinks Ron has a rival for Kitty's affections (4/13) (7) (9834)



Chris Tarrant returns with the big money game show (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? New series. Chris Tarrant hosts the ultimate big-prize game show (7) (3394953)
- 9.00 Britain's Worst Roads: The state of the nation's highways and byways (7) (5969)
- 10.00 News at Ten: Weather (7) (32555)
- 10.30 HTV News and Weather (7) (137360)
- 10.40 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview A look ahead to the forthcoming Formula One season (7) (102559)
- 11.10 Pink Cadillac (1989) Comedy adventure, starring Clint Eastwood as a bounty hunter searching for a woman who stole \$250,000 from a vicious gang of neo-Nazis (7) (2255679)
- 1.30am F1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Action and news from the qualifying session for tomorrow night's Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne (7) (81254)
- 3.20 The Haunted Fishbowl (1254322)
- 3.35 Trisha Show (4/13) (7) (856148)
- 4.50 HTV Nightvision (4321525)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (7) (7) (33954)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News: Weather (7) (566018) 1.00 Wish You Were Here? (7) (31124) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615476) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (7) (3394953) 2.45-3.25 Central News (7) (4091259) 3.25-3.45 Shortland Street (7) (3124) 3.45-4.15 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (830550) 4.15-4.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (830550) 4.45-5.10 Central Jobfinder '99 (7) (6228893) 5.10-5.30 Asian Eye (3606902)
  - As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News: Weather (7) (4311650) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7574037) 1.00 Westcountry Update (31124) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615476) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (7) (3394953) 2.45-3.25 Westcountry News: Weather (7) (4091259) 3.25-3.45 Shortland Street (7) (3124) 3.45-4.15 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (830550) 4.15-4.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (830550) 4.45-5.10 Central Jobfinder '99 (7) (6228893) 5.10-5.30 Asian Eye (3606902)
  - As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 12.30-12.35 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.00-1.05 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.05-1.10 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.10-1.15 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.15-1.20 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.20-1.25 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.25-1.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.30-1.35 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.35-1.40 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.40-1.45 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.45-1.50 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.50-1.55 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.55-2.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.00-2.05 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.05-2.10 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.10-2.15 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.15-2.20 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.20-2.25 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.25-2.30 Meridian News: Weather 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## RUGBY LEAGUE 47

Challengers line up to claim crown from the Monie men

# SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

## CRICKET 50

Lara faces biggest character test of his career



# Kinnear told to rest after heart scare



Kinnear's long-term future is in doubt after heart attack

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, suffered a heart attack before his club's match against Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday evening. He will not be in charge for the game against Leicester City, also in the FA Cup Premier League, at Selhurst Park tomorrow and is unlikely to be released from the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield until after the weekend.

Kinnear, 52, has been told to rest for at least two weeks and will have to take medication for the foreseeable future. He could miss the rest of the season as he recuperates and his long-term future may also be in doubt. It will not be discussed by Wimbledon officials until he has returned to London and settled at home. After complaining of chest pains before the game at Hillsborough, which Wimbledon went on to

win 2-1, Kinnear was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Sam Hammam, Wimbledon's partner-governor, spent the evening with Kinnear and they were later joined by Kinnear's wife, Bonnie. She remained at the hospital yesterday as her husband underwent more tests. Kinnear, one of the longest-serving managers in the Premiership, was said to be "comfortable".

"I'd like to bet he was sitting up, taking a lightly boiled egg and chatting up all the nurses," a close friend said. "Not much will change. I'm sure he'll be back at the helm before too long."

A hospital spokesman was less sure. "I think that's way down the line," he said. "I'm sure that's not even on his own or Mr Hammam's mind at the moment, even though they would have to consider it. I'm

sure it's not uppermost in their minds. The main thing is for Mr Kinnear to get himself back to health."

Kenny Cunningham, the Wimbledon captain, had noticed that Kinnear was troubled during the pre-match warm-up. "As we were coming off the pitch, it became obvious that Joe was in some type of discomfort," he said. "We thought it might have been indigestion or something like that. An ambulance then came and took him to hospital. It was a bit of a shock at the time, but, hopefully, the worst is now behind him. It was in our minds during the match and especially afterwards, but I don't think it had any bearing on the game."

Football management has long

been regarded as a stressful job, particularly in the Premiership, in which the demand for success — and the financial rewards that go with it — have reached unrealistic levels. Kinnear is an often volatile character, who believes in expressing his emotions in the most demonstrable manner possible. His state of mind cannot have been helped by Wimbledon's double defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup fourth round and Worthington Cup semi-finals, last month, which produced four matches of intense pressure on and off the pitch.

He responded typically by saying that Wimbledon could still qualify for Europe via a high finish in the Premiership and they lie sixth after the victory at Hillsborough.

Barry Fry, the Peterborough United manager, has survived two heart attacks yet remains his same, voluble self in the Nationwide League third division. Ronnie Moore, of Rotherham United, and Steve Parkin, of Mansfield Town, were wired up with heart monitors during their third-division game at Field Mill in January.

Both managers' heart rates soared during the match, which Rotherham won 3-0. "We're all under the same pressures," Moore said yesterday. "I was very surprised my readings weren't higher as I'm a real shouter and screamer. People tell me there's so much pressure in the Premiership but you should try it down here. We are all fighting for a living."

"I'd like to see Premier League managers linked up to the heart

monitors. Can you imagine what Gordon Strachan would be like?" In Kinnear's absence, Mick Harford and David Kemp, his first-team coaches, will look after the side.

"Joe is in the best possible hands," Efan Ekoku, the Wimbledon striker, said. "We're still pushing for a European place and, hopefully, Joe will be back to spearhead the campaign."

Bradford City have boosted their attempt to gain promotion to the FA Cup Premiership by completing the signing of Dean Windass, the 29-year-old forward, from Oxford United.

He is expected to make his debut for his new club away to Port Vale tomorrow. Bradford will pay Oxford £950,000 plus a further £50,000 if they win promotion this season.

## Hill backing Schumacher for world title

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE recommendation can come no higher than from the man with the biggest axe to grind, but Damon Hill was willing yesterday to press the claims of Michael Schumacher, his old adversary, as the Formula One motor racing world champion this year.

Hill would seem the least likely to declare his support for the driver who presented the biggest obstacle to his own championship ambitions, particularly on the eve of the first grand prix of the season. It was in Australia that the German prevented Hill from winning his first world title by allowing his Benetton to come into contact with the Englishman's Williams in 1994.

The incident was judged to have been an accident, but Hill is now wise enough to believe that Schumacher's innate cunning probably robbed him of victory and their rivalry has continually

spilled into bitterness and recriminations. Since then, Schumacher has twice lost the world title in the last race of the season in his Ferrari, leading Hill to predict that his time has come again.

"If you take the way things went in the last two seasons, I would put my money on Ferrari winning it. I would put my money on Michael winning."

English Williams.....46

he said. "They have come so close in the last two years, but I think this year Ferrari will start closer to McLaren than they did last season, which will give Michael a good chance to challenge straightaway. I wouldn't put a lot of money on it, but I can see it happening."

"It would be good for the sport if Ferrari won it and it

would certainly be good for Ferrari, but if Michael starts this year as he finished last season, then the advantage will be with Ferrari and Michael Schumacher."

"It's a gut feeling. McLaren started here with a 2sec advantage, in effect, last year and Ferrari ended up being on level terms towards the end of the season. That gives Michael a magnificent chance."

Schumacher was sidelined by his only mechanical failure of the season in Melbourne last year, while the McLaren's of Mika Hakkinen — on his way to the championship — and David Coulthard humiliated the opposition by lapping the entire field.

Perhaps Hill's assessment would have been tempered if he had witnessed the German's lukewarm performance in his first significant press conference of the season. This was Schumacher at his worst: uninterested, terse, even leaving the stage for a toilet break at one point while Ron Dennis, the McLaren team principal, answered questions.

Not that Hakkinen, his chief rival, was in much better form. The world champion said that he is relaxed and determined to retain his title, yet he, too, seemed to be out of sorts, even anxious. In fact, the only world champion who appeared geared up for the challenge was Hill, the oldest man on the grid and the driver most readily tipped for retirement at the end of the season.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, has already warned that a poor season would see Hill, 37, hanging up his helmet and overalls and walking into the bliss of family life at home in Ireland.

However, Hill spoke enthusiastically yesterday of developing a car that might win races this season and might be ready to challenge for the world championship next season.

This is the first time since he left Williams in his championship-winning year of 1996 that a car has been built for him and Hill has joined in the task with enthusiasm, visiting the Jordan factory on days off and building a relationship with the team.

Earlier this week, he loaded the Jordan mechanics into



Hill is delighted with Jordan's progress before the opening grand prix of the season this weekend, but believes that Schumacher has a better title chance

taxi to take them out for a meal and then to a club to listen to a rhythm and blues band as thanks for their relentless hard work in getting his new Jordan ready for the race on Sunday.

"This is the first time a car has been built around me, with me putting in my ideas and talking closely with the engineers and designers," Hill said. "There is a lot on this car that I like and it is a much,

much better car than the one we started last season with."

Having left the excellence of Williams, Hill went to Arrows and a car incapable of even getting to the starting grid in the first race of the 1997 season here. This time last year, having joined Jordan, he laboured to eighth place, which was a warning of times so difficult that he contemplated retirement midway through last year.

All that changed spectacularly when Hill won in Belgium, signalling the rebirth of Jordan as a serious championship contender and Hill as a driver capable of breaking the McLaren-Ferrari monopoly of grands prix victories.

"I am not trying to play things down because we don't know yet where we are against the competition," he said. "But the odds are good. Maybe we are not yet in the position of winning the championship, but we can win races and we have a car that can be developed. Perhaps we will have a realistic chance of a car that can win a championship in the year 2000."



Schumacher's performance yesterday left much to be desired

## Richmond face cash crisis

BY MARK SOUSTER

A CRISIS meeting at Richmond was continuing late last night to determine whether the financially-troubled Allied Dunbar Premiership rugby union club should, as seems inevitable, apply to go into administration. As the management discussed the implications of Ashley Levett's decision to scale down his investment, which stands at more than £6 million, it transpired that approaches are expected to be made to John Madejski, the multimillionaire owner of Reading Football Club, with a view to a possible takeover.

Madejski, who built the new showpiece stadium where Richmond now play, is in the Far East on business, but it would make obvious sense for the tycoon, who made his fortune from car magazines, to become involved. There are plans to share the rugby and football administrations, but whether Madejski wants to take control, giving the scale of

losses in professional rugby, is another matter.

Michelle Lawrence, the Richmond press officer, said: "There is talk of John coming in. It is not difficult to understand why. He took over and saved Reading and has put an enormous amount into the community."

Lawrence indicated that the club would probably go into administration today or on Monday, which would give it a four-month breathing space in which to seek new finance and restructure now that Levett has made his position clear.

Tony Hallett, the former Richmond chief executive and now a non-executive director, said that the administration option would ensure that "creditors do not become predators". Levett is reducing his stake from 80 per cent to 25 per cent in the

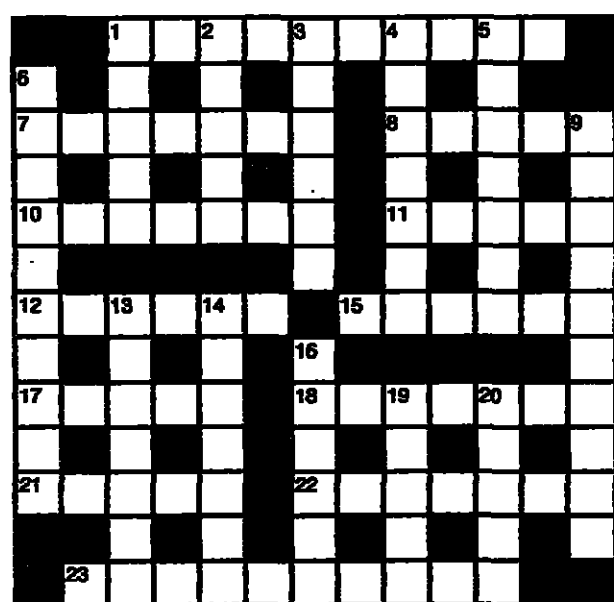
club, which moved its base from south-west London last season to cut annual losses from £2.8 million to £1.6 million.

The revelation of the club's dire straits could not come at a more inopportune moment. They have just reached the semi-finals of the Tedley's Bitter Cup and the financial problems will create uncertainty within the playing squad of 32, who have been reassured that there is sufficient money to keep the club going until the end of the season.

Levett, a commodity trader based in Monaco, is the second of the new breed of owner to withdraw from professional rugby. Sir John Hall, who set the benchmark three years ago when he enticed Rob Andrew to Newcastle for £150,000 a year, recently pulled out of the club after writing off an estimated £8 million.

England set the standard, page 49

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1657

### ACROSS

- 1 Welsh town: WW2 general (10)
- 7 Result (7)
- 8 Skill: guile (5)
- 10 One from Myanmar: type of cat (7)
- 11 Item of information (5)
- 12 Surface glow: glory (in reputation) (6)
- 15 Waterproof jacket: a nerd (6)
- 17 Natural usage (language) (5)
- 18 Pioneering missionary (7)
- 21 Mouth of eg Nile (5)
- 22 Bitter bark extract, for malaria once (7)

### DOWN

- 23 One-room apartment (6,4)
- 1 Vehicle engine (5)
- 2 Looped rope-end (5)
- 3 Hansel's sister (6)
- 4 Alexander the Great's king (7)
- 5 Nuclear-energy device (7)
- 6 Tubby (3,7)
- 9 One operating stopwatch (4,6)
- 13 Little pan (7)
- 14 Arthur —, Fr. poet (7)
- 16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
- 19 Upstairs bay: its window (5)
- 20 Coil, distort (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1656

ACROSS: 1 Light 4 Brigade 8 Atrocious 9 Ash 10 Half 11 Sealym 13 League 14 Onward 17 Croatian 19 Rail 22 Fat 23 Blundered 24 Reppress 25 Yenten

DOWN: 1 Leash 2 Gorilla 3 Tack 4 Broken 5 Insolent 6 Awash 7 Exhumed 12 Suitable 13 Lucifer 15 Anagram 16 Jagues 18 On top 20 Laden 21 D-Day

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